

WESTRAY: RUNNING FOR COVER • TORONTO BUTTS OUT

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

JULY 15, 1996

BEATING AIDS

**New 'cocktail therapy'
offers hope 15 years after
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Beating AIDS

Jim Wakeford has AIDS—and a new "cocktail" therapy that saves several drugs is producing results. As AIDS specialists gathered in Vancouver this week for a major international conference, that is grounds for cautious optimism among those treating the disease



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Running for cover

This week, the inquiry into the deaths of 26 men at Nova Scotia's Wexham coal mine reconstructs for the first days of scheduled testimony. But the commission has so far failed in its attempts to hear from the man who controlled Wexham's parent company, Cumhrie Inc.



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Toronto butts out

The City of Toronto's controversial new anti-tobacco bylaw, which will prohibit smoking in local restaurants, bars and entertainment facilities at the beginning of next year, is the country's toughest offensive yet in the war against lighting up.



From The Editor

Blue smoke and back-rooms



He smoked one by the latter. *Blowing blue smoke in the back-room.* Smoke Gets in Your Eyes. From sports to politics to romance, the cigarette has ingrained in our lives, victoriously enshrined as a sign of sophistication or conservatism as a very bad habit. Indeed on high chairs swivelled around in their hotels while parents of the '60s pulled at the breakfast table. Smoking while working under pressure

was as natural as ham and eggs. Much later, after the health warnings and smattering evidence of one's mortality—and the demise of him and eggs—came the battles to quit. There were plastic filters that allegedly collected the gunk, those lightweight-like cups that you broke the filter off for a real hit, the wine-dipped cigarettes, the smokers three-month hiatus from the world followed by the fall of the regime during the ski trip ("I've just had one after dinner"), the nicotine-laced gum that alleviated the withdrawal twitches and made your stomach churn—and, finally, the magic of hypnosis that has secured a decade of abstinence.

Every smoker who has quit has their own harrowing story and there are legends still flying. And an army of puffin-researchers, estimated at 6.2 million Canadians, among three skimming members of young women. And then there are the cigarette companies and their lobbies. In Canada, they happen to be great proponents of sports and the arts, especially in Quebec where there is more puffing than in any other province. To that end, the companies spend millions a year on sponsorships, staging an engaging array of public entertainments, from professional golf and tennis

tournaments to jazz festivals and fireworks extravaganzas, all the while protecting their brands.

In the United States, the power of the tobacco lobby is legendary, clouting and deflating senators and congressmen across the southern states. No less a figure than Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole and last month that the cigarette companies should not be regulated, adding: "I guess it's addictive to some and not to others." It depends, apparently, on the size of a campaign war chest.

Last week in Toronto, City Hall confronted the Big Tobacco—and Big Restaurants—based on page 309. Toronto imposed the most stringent laws in the land against so-called ETS, for environmental tobacco smoke. Smoking in more than 4,500 restaurants and bars—segregated in segregated areas—now will be banned entirely on Jan. 1, an extension of the existing municipal law against all smoking in commercial buildings. The uproar that ensued was alongside, with bar owners and smokers protesting—and many patrons cheering the prospect of a healthier environment (and lower cleaning bills). In that respect, many establishmentists stand to gain as many customers as they lose. Industry supporters pooh-poohed the secondhand smoke issue, saying that it was not a hazard. Health authorities replied with an imposing list of more than 4,000 chemicals in ETS, including benzene, arsenic and 41 others that are known to cause cancer. Litigation, it seemed, is inevitable. But so, too, was the law. *Blue smoke does blow away.*



Smokers in Toronto City Hall confronts Big Tobacco

Robert Lawrence

Newsroom Notes:

Reliable sources

The uncertainties that cloud the horizons of The Canadian Press news agency these days underline the importance of trusted sources. CP's active force of reporters constitutes an indispensable tool for newspapers and magazines like Maclean's, which is a subscriber but



Behreave: trusted

the magazine also turns regularly to other trusted outlets who often do not get the credit they deserve—or sometimes, demand after the story appears. Whether it is the G.D. Howe Institute on economics and political matters, the Canadian Institute on social policy (which provided leads for the recent cover story on volunteers) or Statistics Canada, informed sources are essential. But the real treasures as reliable sources are in-house. Brian Gussens, director of information services, and Chief of Research Brian Behreave and

his staff of researcher-reporters. In addition to reporting and database searches, they check facts and generally keep the editors and writers out of trouble.

Next week

The coming edition of Maclean's will feature a long-planned 25 page exclusive report on Canada's Olympic team, the international alphas to watch, and some of the sizzling behind-the-scenes efforts at the biggest international sporting event show. The edition will be on sale starting on July 15.



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The Financial Post

Volunteer spirit

With all the negative things going on, your cover story "Local heroes" (July 1) was great reading. Many people are involved in the community and their stories need to be told.

Joe Wilson,
London, Ont.

Your "Local heroes" articles were a timely contribution to the national discussion of options in the current economy, generating good (if any needed) in the importance of individual volunteer efforts. For the past year, we have been facilitating these efforts for the millions of Canadians who now lack much of their information in cyberspace. Charity Village has maintained an online, Canada-wide, volunteer bulletin

site, the opportunity to match their skills and interests with the needs of charitable organizations.

Doug Jackson,
Windsor, Cheryl Village,
Toronto, Ont.

Raigo Viles, restaurateur to the homeless; New Dawn Enterprises, a community economic development corporation; and Serenity City, a village for the chronically homeless, so many "local heroes." Ah, Canada, there don't live still.

Thomas P. Burke,
Ottawa, Japan, Ont.

Your July 1 editorial, "Making a difference," celebrating "people trying to pull together for the common good" continues your readers' polarisation of community and government. You say people

"long ago stopped looking to governments to solve their problems," but what about medicare, employment insurance, education, etc., all examples of how the community, through government, solves some very basic problems of modern living. The constant media attack on government and politics per se constitutes one of the greatest threats to democracy in this century.

Robert Allen,
Hamilton

Too much TV

Maclean's recently headlined Maclean's on the growing use of Ritalin ("The ADD dilemma,"

July, March 11) and the ill effects of excessive TV watching on the young ("Toxic TV," Cover, June 17). Is it possible there is a link between these two phenomena? Surely it should not be surprising that very early exposure to television, with its thrills, excitement and ever-changing pictures might disfigure a child for the relative stagnation of the classroom. Is anyone researching whether there is a direct correlation between the increase in the number of children with attention deficit disorder and the consequent use of Ritalin, and early television exposure in these children?

Philippe Bayle,
Ottawa

Isn't it just like us to look for easy answers and a quick fix? Our kids aren't reading enough, they're watching too much TV,

Staging the Merchant

Clifford Leach—one of the late, great English professors at the University of Toronto—once said to me: "Never assume that Shakespeare is any less sensitive than you are yourself." A warning not always heeded when *The Merchant of Venice* is taught or produced. But Mary Maules, director of this year's Stratford production of the play, rightly deserves the applause she is getting for a fine production that sensitively explores the issue of bigotry, and openly displays the money hanger of the so-called perfection of the play ("Wrestling with bigotry," Theatre, June 17). High school teachers can continue the work of Stratford's *Merchant* and help undo the harmful lessons in bigotry that children learn in the street and from traditional interpretations of the play.

Ado Grandini,
Edmonton, Ont.

Youth violence is on the rise. What, or what, is it based on? It must be TV. Surely it can't be the parents' responsibility to monitor what kids are watching, surely it can't be the parents' responsibility to teach kids the difference between right and wrong. So what to do about it? No problem, just get a V-chip, set back, relax, and let the TV worry about what the kids are watching.

Jim Stathopoulos,
Lehrer, Alta.

Compared with the action and color and sound of any TV show—even the educational shows—the classroom is a very boring, static place. Kids now want their teachers to entertain them just like the TV does, and when that doesn't happen they rage out. So the problem just isn't with the violence and antisocial behavior the children see on TV, it's for mediocrity that is the problem.

Mal Bialek,
Ottawa, Ont.

Speaking out

I read with interest your interview with Gulf Canada Resources Ltd. CEO J.P. Bryan (CA's Toronto-style response to the unity question), *Business*, June 24), and it brings to mind the absence of any similar comments from the head of other corporations in Canada challenging the Parti Québécois and their attempts to divide this country and steal their own. How ever much I like Mr. Bryan's thinking and his willingness to voice his thoughts, there

Would you MIND DYING

for a moment?

It's hard to imagine, but

maybe you should take a few minutes to think the unthinkable. What would happen to your family? How would the mortgage be paid? Who would take care of the kids? University costs?

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Your life is unique and only you can make a plan for life. A plan that makes sure the things you love will always be there for the people you love. Because no one plans to die, but everybody needs a plan for life. No one knows this better than your life insurance agent. Hundreds of people in your community trust us to help with their families' futures.



Photo (right): many are involved in the community and their stories need to be told

board. (<http://www.charityvillage.com/>) connects them in cooperation with volunteer centres in major cities. This service, which allows users to browse hundreds of volunteer opportunities on-line, is updated weekly. Users tell us that they appreciate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Maclean's welcomes readers' letters. Due to space limitations, not all letters can be published. Letters may appear in Maclean's electronic sites.

are three things wrong with what has happened and what he did: he's an American, representing to Quebecers a western Canadian attitude, speaking in English and providing yet another flag-burning-type grievance for the cause of the separatists in this province. But if the liberal government in Ottawa doesn't have the guts to speak out as has Mr. Bryson, why should other business leaders stand in its place? And if everyone leaves the task for somebody, then nobody will do anything and we will continue to live in a state of uncertainty and stress.

Allen C. Sanger
Broomfield, Que.

I have three small words for J. P. Bryson: "Enfin, go home."

J. F. Conway,
Byron

Black apologists

It is interesting to see George Folin add his name to the growing number of veteran journalists who see the coming reign of Conrad Black over much of our printed thoughts as benign, even mildly positive ("Conrad Black and the benefit of the doubt," Media Watch, June 26). I have of this considered the Canadian media to be subservient and unimaginative, but this growing "Black lot" of apologists surprises me, even the most ardent and media watcher. Many and others are going to great lengths to blame the dismal state of our print media on the writers themselves, rather than on those who create the venue and ambience in which they toil. The argument being, in Black's case, that media owners such as Black would have to be "cruel" to destroy their own product. Has Black read Black's *Saturday Night* recently? It veers between the tediously predictable and obviously sycophantic—and has become increasingly irrelevant to most people's lives. Is this because Canadian journalists with any creativity and insight (sometimes found in former secretaries of *Saturday Night*) have suddenly lost their

talent, their drive? I don't know. Perhaps the saddest result of Black's heavy-handed influence is that I and many Canadians looking for stimulation and diversity—or just a good read—are turning to the more liberal U.S. magazines. Thank God free-market competition continues to exist somewhere.

Esther Offits,
Ottawa

Hasn't Conrad Black a weak defence of the indefensible. We need a new approach to newspaper publishing. The kinds that new Essence the Black life should support



Black: right over much of our printed thoughts

employee ownership and control. That form of ownership would make the media accountable to their communities rather than Black with his right-wing, totalitarian values.

Wingman Lyle,
Peterborough, Ont.

Centennial memories

I was moved by the letter from Katherine Allen of Ottawa and her memories of the 1,000-voice choir of students from the Ottawa Public School Board, which cele-

brated the Centennial here in 1967 ("Let the songs of Canada be heard," The Road Ahead, June 24). Her description of the red capes in part of the Maple Leaf on the Canadian flag led me to suspect that she speaks of the event recalled by the late John Gurn, Switzerland, then supervisor of music at the board. I was a newly appointed music consultant, and given the job of figuring out where people wearing the red capes should sit. The Christmas season was spent testing both of red material into the proposed seats, which would then be assigned to our various home economics departments for the final touches. The seating plan of the auditorium was transferred to a large sheet of cardboard and the planning began. Can you imagine the excitement of the first rehearsal when the red capes were assigned to the children in those seats? To my amazement, it worked. Thank you Ms. Allen for remembering this experience. It was special for us, too.

Barbara Clark,
Gatineau

Most expensive city?

Perhaps it is Peter C. Newman who has brought mad cow disease, and not British Prime Minister John Major, as he suggests in his ranting and incoherent tirade against Britain ("This Major caught mad cow disease?" The Nation's Business, June 26). There is a place called Borden Heath in England, and the M42 circles Birmingham, going nowhere near London. But calling London the "world's most expensive city," based on a 67 meal, is a bit more significant. Try Tokyo, or a city in Germany, or any town in Switzerland, where a good rule of thumb is that you can either eat or stay in a hotel, but not both. As for Britain's social and economic distress, its low inflation rate, and unemployment at around six per cent and superb public services count in mind. The 67 cost of Newman's bowl of soup has much more to say about the value of the Canadian dollar than the cost of a pub lunch in England.

Marjorie Aulic,
Belmont, B.C.

Maclean's

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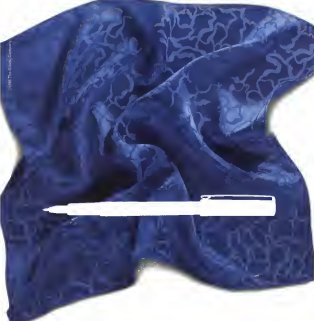
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THE MAIL



In the mainstream

Your recent article about Olympic hopefuls ("Carrying the torch," *Olympics*, May 13) was inspiring in its portrayal of Canadian athletes, most notably those working to participate in the Paralympics in Atlanta. The stories of blind lawn bowler Peggy Casey and swimmer Terry Alexander, who has cerebral palsy, are tales of courage and perseverance beyond those of typical athletes. Their stories are news items not only in the sports arena, but in the face of adversity in their lives. The fact that Alexander's tells their stories in the midst of those of able-bodied athletes must be commended, for it recognizes the reality of these athletes in their fight for recognition by the mainstream of society. As a parent of a child with disabilities, I can confirm that these athletes serve as models of success and as sources of hope for others.

Robin Gaudry J. Miles,
Calgary

Pre-revolutionary beer

In your article "No small beer" (*Business*, June 13), you claimed Bacardi Ltd. was using a marketing gimmick, i.e. "rearranging a beer it says it produced in pre-Castro Cuba" to lure beer drinkers. I take exception to the inference that our claim is at best suspect, and at worst untrue. The beer in question is Hatuey, and prior to Castro's revolution it had a 50-per-cent share of the Cuban beer market. The brew master, Eduardo McCormack, wrote down the formula for Hatuey and managed to escape from Cuba with it and his family days after Castro confiscated the

own plants and breweries. Today, Hatuey is brewed in Baltimore using the very same formula that Mr. McCormack spent out of Cuba more than 35 years ago.
James C. McLarnon,
Assistant vice-president, marketing,
Bacardi-Martin Canada Inc.,
Brampton, Ont.

Liberal conservatives

Conservatism's future, according to Peter C. Newman, apparently lies in liberalism ("A positive view of conservatism's future," *The Nation's Business*, May 27). Isn't it odd that while most Canadians believe in old-fashioned virtues like optimism, charity, enterprise, moderation and justice, the approved politics focuses on race, fairness, regulation, deviant lifestyles, and avoidance of accountability? A truly conservative leader with a sense of steel would win the voters, the grassroots and the love of ordinary Canadians.

Ene Doh
Edmonton, B.C.

Majority rules

Diane Francis's view of bakery authors from selective memory. When British Columbia elects a socialist government, she goes on ad nauseam about our failed political system because the results did not reflect the majority's wishes ("The Winds of Change are gaining velocity," *June 17*). I do not recall her running on about a failed political system when the same result happened with the Conservative party under Brian Mulroney over the Free Trade Agreement. My recollection was that she was quite enthusiastic about the results.

Alde Klein,
Edmonton, Ont.

Thanks to volunteers

I am very grateful to those volunteer readers who read *Morison's* onto cassette for the blind. Blasting the magazine on tape gives us the feeling that we're not so isolated from the reading public.

Doreen Abraham,
Edmonton, AB

Responsible students

I enjoyed your positive coverage of our schools and the serious problems that today's students are facing ("Bribe new schools," *Cover*, May 28). It was refreshing to read about the responsibility students are taking upon themselves to collaborate and support one another.

Lee Bell,
Toronto

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THE MAIL

Revising history

In the June 10 *Road Ahead* ("Exorcising national dirty tales"), Frank MacKinnon states his intent to denounce some so-called dirty tales of Canadian politics as a step towards a solution to Canada's problems, but unfortunately he sounded as if he was denouncing francophones. He states that Huguenots were discriminated against in Quebec, but forgets to mention that Franco-Quebecers, among other francophone groups, were denied French schools not so long ago. He then goes on to call the Acadian deportation a simple mistake, which is quite an understatement. If Mr. MacKinnon is really intent on finding solutions for Canada, maybe he should stop having such a one-sided view of the country.

Marjorie Peden,
Kingston, Ont. 00

As one who counts among his ancestors early francophone and early anglophone settlers, I want to know what Frank MacKinnon is implying by saying those first here were merely economic exploiters and "the real pioneers came much later." It is only a thoroughly colonial mentality that would seek to downgrade our own founders and our own history in favor of the latest fashion or culture from overseas.

Stephen K. Boney,
Gibson, South Korea

Letters from Brian Peters and Bernard O'Han in the June 24 issue of *Maclean's* ("Learning the lessons") have questioned my account of the exodus of the Acadians. The plight of the Acadians is misunderstood because their own mistakes have been forgotten, especially the misdeeds of one of Canada's leading officials, Notre-Jean-Louis LeBel. Historians, says the *Canadian Encyclopedia*, have regarded LeBel as a "political agent for France" and as a "transmission missionary using every means to keep French Catholic Acadians from British-Protestant domination." What was an encouraged exodus urged by LeBel and his followers is unfortunately couched as an expulsion. The sequel is seldom mentioned—the displaced Acadians were allowed to return in 1764 after the war ended. This was a privilege denied to the Huguenot-French-Canadian Protestants of Quebec in 1685, who were victims of Canada's real expulsion. If facts and ideas of Canadian history were frankly and publicly discussed, and told in schools, we would not now, in the words of letter writers, be haunted by the "darker moments" or "the pain of our ancestors." Our history will give us much pride and inspiration if we get it to change.

Frank MacKinnon,
Emerita professor, University of Calgary,
Calgary

Healthy Bites

10 Winning Foods

Here's a list of 10 all-time, great nutrition-packed foods. Keep them in mind next time you shop.



For the most nutritious foods, look for a food pyramid.

Lean Red Meat By far the best source of zinc and iron.

Potatoes One of the most nutrient-dense vegetables and great value.

Milk Best source of bioavailable calcium in a package of 15 essential nutrients, including magnesium, riboflavin and vitamin D.

Eggs Versatile and nutritious. Their protein quality is so high, that life milk products, they're used as a benchmark to evaluate the quality of other proteins.

Spinach Not a good source of iron and calcium because of bioavailability problems. However, like other dark green leafy vegetables, it's a precious source of folic acid.

Carrots The champion supplier of beta-carotene!

Fresh Fruit In all its shapes, colors and textures, a beautiful way to end a meal.

Cheese In addition to calcium and all its other nutrients, cheese, like whole milk, contains CLA, an important anti-oxidant. Have it with your fruit for dessert!

Legumes Great source of complex carbohydrates and lots of fibre.

Nuts A nutritious portable snack, loaded with vitamins E. Note: nuts have the highest fat content of all nutritious foods, so moderation.

A beverage that reduces strokes in middle-aged men?

Evidence gathered in a 22-year follow-up study of 3150 middle-aged men of Japanese ancestry, conducted by the Honolulu Heart Program, suggests that milk consumption may reduce the risk of stroke. The study showed that men who were nondrinkers of milk, experienced twice as many strokes as men who drank 16 oz. of milk a day, or more.

In a lather? Steer clear of beer!

After exercising, a beer should be the last thing you reach for. Beer, as well as caffeinated sodas, coffee and tea act as diuretics which actually increase your body's need for fluids. Instead, opt for water, juice or milk. If you choose milk, or a yogurt drink, you'll also be replenishing sweat-soaked-out supplies of potassium at the same time as you stoke up on calcium and protein.



Protein Pack



From the Dairy Bureau of Canada

Opening Notes



Honoring de Gaulle in Quebec's capital

When French president Charles de Gaulle uttered his now famous "Vive le Québec libre" in Montreal in 1967, he set off a storm of controversy that still reverberates. But a new, city-owned capital commission has announced that it will erect a bronze statue of de Gaulle. It will be unveiled next year on a square near the Place of Abraham and across from the Place of Jeanne d'Arc that officials for the Quebec City commission—which reunites the capital's many squares, parks and historical monuments—expect there is nothing provocative about the \$255,000 project. "The Gaulle was one of the great figures of the 20th century and the Soc-

Quebec City, de Gaulle (left) a bronze statue

and World War, and he was the one person who has done the most to put Quebec City on the map internationally," says Denis Angers, a special adviser to the commission. "He came to Quebec in 1964, when, on his way home from Washington, de Gaulle stopped off in Quebec City to thank Quebecers for their support during the war. 'I can understand how some people might react to the statue, given the present political situation,' says Angers. "But this project has been in the works for years."

The high cost of AIDS

The 15,000 scientists, doctors, support workers and others attending an international conference on AIDS in Vancouver this week are exchanging information on a wide variety of topics related to the deadly disease. Among them, the economic impact of AIDS. Excerpts from a speech to a related forum on the economics of AIDS by John McColgan, chief economist for the Royal Bank of Canada.

Human capital is crucial to life for the value of the education, training, skills and entrepreneurial talents that are embod-

ied in people. AIDS strikes at our stock of human capital just as surely as it strikes at the immune system. People who die from this disease would otherwise have a good number of decades as productive workers, taxpayers, consumers and savers. We can put numbers to these ideas. As of 1992, Canadian human capital destroyed by AIDS amounted to \$8 billion. The cumulative incidence of AIDS will almost double between now and the turn of the century. It will double again between 2000 and 2050. So the destruction of human capital will climb from \$8 billion in 1992 to \$13 billion in 2000 and \$20 billion in 2050. And even these numbers are too low. They should be seen as maximum estimates.

Trying to please the home town

Quebec City's newest professional hockey franchise is not taking any chances. Just a year after the Quebec Nordiques and the NHL left town, the new Quebec Rookies of the International Hockey League—a professional league one notch below the NHL—are trying to stir up local interest by having as many Quebec players as possible on the roster. One way to do that is to hold a training camp for Quebec natives only. To be eligible to attend, players must have been born in Quebec, live in the province, and have played junior, college or university hockey within the past two years. "We want to show some respect for the community by giving young local franchise players a chance to make the team," says Rookies general manager Joe Bouchette, who held the same position with the Atlanta Knights before the team moved to Quebec from English Premier this year. Bouchette says he has received about 100 applications for the 10 openings for the two-day training camp in August. He adds that he will also consider players from other provinces. "They," says Bouchette, a former native who speaks no French, "this is hockey—the goal is to win." And to make sure there are fans in the seats.

From Wedding Bells to Divorce

Don Courville knows from personal experience how wrenching a divorce can be. When his 18-year marriage ended in 1994, he looked around for literature to help him get through the process. But he found none. "That was the Toronto publisher—basically a former partner in *Wedding Bells* magazine—on the path to developing *Divorce* magazine. With its second issue now in Toronto, the magazine, set in weekly, daily and social services editions, *Divorce* is doing so well that Courville, 41, is launching a Chicago edition next month and a New York City edition in October. Other cities could follow, along with more general national editions for Canada and the United States. Courville, now happily living with a woman, says that advertisers, notably lawyers, mediators and real estate agents, seem eager to reach his market. "A divorcing couple needs two homes, two cars, two lawyers, two sets of Medicare glasses for the kids," he notes. Not to mention two copies of *Divorce*.



The new magazine, *Divorce*, is a shot at a market along with more general national editions for Canada and the United States.

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BEST-SELLERS

- FICTION**
1. *Amorim's Choice*, E. Louis (Penguin) (3)
 2. *A Crown of Ravens*, John Grisham (3)
 3. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 4. *The Fourth Deadly Sin*, John Grisham (3)
 5. *Phantom of the West*, John Grisham (3)
 6. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 7. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 8. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 9. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 10. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
- NONFICTION**
1. *Brain, Heart & Soul*, David (3)
 2. *Brain, Heart & Soul*, David (3)
 3. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 4. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 5. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 6. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 7. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 8. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 9. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)
 10. *The Ninth Circle*, John Grisham (3)

1 / Fiction list ends. Copyright by John Grisham

Summer BBQ cooking

It's time for cook-out season. Reader's Digest Press has released *The Classic Barbecue Cookbook* by food writer Marlene Sperber. With 367, bright photographs and some off-the-beaten-track recipes (Mop sauce, barbecued onions), it is a superb book for backyard chefs.

Memories of Vancouver's Expo 86

Collecting pins or buttons might be more efficient, expensive, but that is not a concern for Rose and Ed Zeleny of Surrey, B.C. The couple have three boys in their teens. "I have property that accommodates the accumulation of collectibles—one devoted entirely to souvenirs of Vancouver's Expo 86. They include three classic cars, a fire truck, a highway 86 road sign and a short sculpture of Highway 86, a road sculpture that runs through the fair from May to October, 1986. They attended Expo 86, about 35 km from their home, almost every day of the world's fair, but they did not see much of it because they were working as volunteers for the Canadian Museum of Flight's exhibit. "We were so busy with our own lives in the mid-80s, that we kind of missed a lot," says Rose Zeleny. During the



The Zelenys with a piece of Highway 86: 'Judy's car'

Passages

OWEN: Harold Greenberg, 66, co-founder and chairman of Astral Communications Inc., one of Canada's largest entertainment companies, of particular interest, is his son, Michael. Along with his three brothers, Greenberg formed a small publishing company purchased in 1983 into a major developer of Canadian film and television productions. Astral Communications owns The Movie Network (TMN) and pay-TV services in Eastern Canada, and a 50-percent partner in The Family Channel.



A respected editor of Canadian film, Greenberg backed such acclaimed movies as *In the Heat of the Night* (1977), but his biggest hit was the 1983 box set *Porphyria—Canada's highest-grossing theatrical release*.

DIED: TV personality Fred Davis, 74, a fixture on the weekly current affairs show *Front Page Challenge* for nearly four decades, following a stroke, in Toronto. Davis worked as an actor and commentator in National Film Board documentaries before Greenberg's *Front Page Challenge* moderator in 1957—he held the post until the show's cancellation in February, 1995.

DIED: Actress and former supermodel Marlene Hertzberg, 41, apparently of natural cause, at her home in San Francisco, Calif. The sister of actress Marlene Hertzberg and granddaughter of novelist Ernest Hemingway, the woman whose New York City liaison with John F. Kennedy described in 1975 as "the face of a generation" had long struggled with epilepsy, alcoholism and eating disorders.

SENTENCED: To life in prison without the possibility of parole, **Lyle and Erik Menendez**, for the August, 1989, shotgun murders of their wealthy parents, in Los Angeles. After two trials, a first one of self-inflicted in a hang jury in January, 1994, Lyle, 28, and Erik, 25, were convicted of murder in March.

HARRIS: Former world figure skating champion Kurt Browning, 29, and Sarah Hughes, 24, a Canadian-born, Spanish-born dancer with the National Ballet of Canada, in Toronto. The couple met in 1990 at a National Ballet reception at the Royal Ontario skating club in Edmonton. The couple, who were married in April, 1995, during a performance in Toronto.

BY SHARON DOYLE DRIEGER

The doors of The Pilot Tavern were wide open last Wednesday evening, but the unseasonably cool breezes wafting through the popular Toronto pub did little to clear the air. Like the tobacco here hanging over the long, dark bar, a tough, new anti-smoking bylaw threatened to poison the atmosphere. Only a day earlier, city politicians had voted to ban smokers at all restaurants, bars and entertainment facilities beginning on Jan. 1, 1997. "Narrow-minded and stupid," were the first printable comments offered by one angry patron, artist Don Dunn. "Where are we supposed to go if we can't go to our local watering hole and have a glass of beer and a cigarette?" asked his companion, laborer Mark Blackwell. "Are we supposed to stay at home?" Well, yes, argue some restauranters. "If people want to smoke they can do so in their own homes or they can go outside," said Leo McCallie, dining with friends in a nearby hotel—one of them discreetly exhaling smoke. "It's about time," the 35-year-old materials purchaser said, smir-

Tempers flare as a new city bylaw clamps down on lighting up

Toronto butts out

ing a beer. "The health of secondhand smoker practically all of my self-life—cigarettes is taking a toll on people's lives."

Canada's 8.2 million smokers are facing unprecedented pressure to quit out. The grim statistics speak for themselves: last year, according to the National Cancer Institute, almost 17,000 Canadians died from lung cancer, while according to Health Canada another 23,000 succumbed to other smoking-related diseases. Over the past decade, smoke-free government buildings, airports, trains, schools, hospitals, workplaces and shopping malls have become the norm across the country. This spring, Vancouver reinforced the issue when it became the first Canadian city to prohibit smoking in public areas open to children, including restaurants. And Victoria introduced a bylaw requiring all hospitality establishments to be 60 percent nonsmoking by September—and 100-percent smoke-free by January, 1999. Several Ontario municipalities—including Vaughan, Guelph, Windsor and London—have also passed legislation to eliminate restaurant smoking.

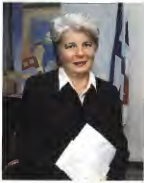
The trend is blowing across the United States, too. Almost 20 cities—including New York—have eliminated smoking in restaurants, and 20 prohibit smoking in bars. But Toronto is the first Canadian city to take the war against nicotine into smokers' favorite haunts—bars, pubs and nightclubs. And unlike many American jurisdictions, Toronto will not permit even limited smoking in separate ventilated areas. After recent setbacks—including

tax cuts by Ottawa and some provincial governments that led to an increase in cigarette sales—anti-smoking advocates are horrified by the city's bold new assault on tobacco. "Long cancer is a death warrant," says Garfield Mahood, executive director of the Non-Smokers' Rights Association. "This is a major step forward."

But the hospitality industry, comprising politicians and even some nonsmokers argue that Toronto's bylaw—one of the toughest in North America—is too extreme. "Smoking is disgusting," says nonsmoker Stephen Hamilton-Clark, member of the council. "But it's a freedom—you shouldn't step people from doing what they enjoy." On Friday, three days after the bylaw passed, Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall asked city council to soften the legislation by allowing smoking in separate ventilated areas for up to 25 per cent of a restaurant's seating—an exemption supported by the city's board of health. But the council refused, with some members citing the need for a level playing field between large establishments and smaller ones unable to afford the cost of constructing a separate smoking area. "We made a mistake in rejecting separate ventilated areas," admitted Hall. "It looks like penalizing smokers rather than protecting nonsmokers." A backlash by irate smokers, the laws, could derail the city's slanting goal of becoming completely smoke-free by the year 2000. "This bylaw requires good will," notes Hall, who says that she enjoys an "occasional" cigarette. "We will not have an army of enforcers out there."



Patrons at The Pilot Tavern's Mall (bottom) smoking in all restaurants, bars and entertainment facilities beginning next year



Toronto bar and restaurant owners and employees fear that they will lose hundreds of customers once the bylaw takes effect. "There will be a major impact on Toronto's tourism and hospitality industry," argues Phil Oliver, president of the Ontario Restaurant Association, noting that at least 50 per cent of sales in bars come from smokers. And because the bylaw does not apply to surrounding municipalities—some of which start on the other side of busy metropolitan thoroughfares—Oliver predicts that patrons will simply migrate to nearby establishments that permit tobacco. "People will go to North York or Scarborough or Etobicoke to smoke," predicts Oliver. "In some cases, it's just a matter of crossing the street." Mel Lastman, mayor of North York, which shares neighborhood fences with North Toronto, agrees. "It's insanity," Lastman said last month. "They're putting themselves out of business and North York is open for business."

In Vancouver—where diners have been unable to light up in restaurants since May 31—smokers have indeed been heading across the street and across town, to pubs and taverns where they can still enjoy a cigarette even if they have to settle for single draught. The Restaurant & Foodservices Association of British Columbia claims that the city's restaurant owners are now facing serious revenue declines. As a result, it has launched a lawsuit in the province's Supreme Court, arguing that the law discriminates against eating establishments, and asking the court to strike down the bylaw. In the meantime, restaurants like Carlos Aguirre, owner of Carlos Aguirre Diner Under, have decided to defy the law. As soon as the revised setbacks from their downtown restaurant last month, Aguirre recalls, customers began to frequent local bars where smoking is still permitted. A nonsmoker and an asthmatic, Aguirre estimates that, in June alone, sales declined by 30 per cent, or more than \$10,000 as a result of the smoking ban. Now, the says, his customers are coming back to her newly reopened 30-seat smoking section.

But Dr. Frederic Tass, chairman of the B.C. Medical Association's tobacco and illness committee, and other health advocates agree that, in time, a smoke-free environment will attract more customers than it drives away. Thus points out that more than 70 per cent of B.C. residents—more than in any other province—do not smoke. Others experience severe allergic reactions to second-hand smoke. In Ontario, according to a recent report by the Tobacco Research Unit at the University of Toronto, about 30 per cent of restaurant customers avoid certain establishments because of the smoke. And while no research is available on the economic impact of a smoking ban on bars, last month the Conference Board of Canada released a paper showing that two-thirds of 60 restaurants in a nationwide survey did not experience a drop in sales after the introduction of a nonsmoking policy. Bass also points out that smoke-free businesses pay less for fire insurance and cleaning rugs and linens. They may also avoid future legal suits from nonsmoking employees. Studies show that lung cancer is nearly twice as prevalent among bar and restaurant employees than in the general public. According to Michael Perle, director of the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco, "The workers are routinely exposed to levels of secondhand smoke six times higher than in the home of a smoker."

That is a risk some employees are willing to take. "I'm not worried about secondhand smoke," states Malvina Shortes, a bar tender at The Pilot and a packy smoker. "I'm prepared to live with that to make a living." Brigitte Bree, manager of Three days—a fashionable Montreal bar that, like most Quebec establishments, does not cater to nonsmokers—also shrugs it off. "Almost everybody smokes here," says Bree, calling Toronto's bylaw "stupid." And, she adds, "It goes together, alcohol and smoking—I'm not saying that it's a good thing, but it's reality." But more than just tobacco is going to be an issue, according to Toronto Councillor Karl Gardiner. "We don't have the resources to legislate people who smoke," she says, pointing out that the Canadian Centre of Substance Abuse estimates that the economic and health costs of smoking reach \$0.6 billion annually. That's a price that leaves many nonsmokers fuming.

PHIL SCOTT/STEELE in Vancouver and JENNIFER HARRIS in Toronto

Memories of power

At 75, Allan MacEachen leaves the Senate

BY MERLE MACISAAC

On a blustery afternoon in Cape Breton, the waters of Lake Antigonish are roiled and choppy below the home of soon-to-be-retired Senator Allan MacEachen. But inside the kitchen of the rambling, ranch-style house, the view is lost on the island's favorite son. Instead, he stares disconsolately at a bearded coat hanger lying on the table. For 38 years, MacEachen was a powerful cabinet minister and a brilliant strategist in the Pearson and Trudeau governments. Later, he was a tireless adversary of the Mulroney government as Opposition leader in the Senate. But on this day, the man known locally as Al has just a simple man locked out of his House Accord No. 1 suite, as he dreads how, just a janky interview or a return he says "I think you should leave me here alone with my ideology."

Gruffly, MacEachen accepts a ride to his next appointment, and a spare set of legs, in Antigonish—home of St. Francis Xavier University, his beloved alma mater, where he sits on the board of governors. He is relaxed and conversant during the hour-long drive, offering views on Gaelic culture, rural post offices and the Catholic church, of which he is a practicing member. He has already sidestepped around awkward questions about his ardently guarded private life. An attempt to clarify his long, close relationship with Audrey MacEachen, a retired hospital administrator at Cape Breton Development Corp. (CBC) who has been in Sydney more with a faint smile. "She's a friend and just that," he says. "To project anything more would be unfair to her." He also deflects a suggestion that gossip and rumors about his lifelong bachelorhood possibly played a role in his fall from the Liberal leadership in 1986. "Look, I've lived what, almost 55 years since that leadership race," MacEachen observes. "It seems to me it's pretty irrelevant now. They said the same thing about Trudeau."

The drive traverses much of MacEachen's political fiction, the riding of Cape Breton Highlands/Conso from this base, he launched an impressive political career that stretched over four decades and helped to give Canada many of its cherished social programs. But the hills and villages of this beautiful constituency and the surrounding region, where unemployment remains stubbornly high, were up a more intimate verdict on MacEachen's legacy as a nation advocate of federal funding for regional economic development.

Those days of big spending are long gone and out of fashion. This spring, it took direct intervention and a good dollop of MacEachen's political capital to merely soften the blow of cutaneous layoffs at Devo's coal mines through more early retirements and the promise of continued public ownership. It was a major victory for miners by the standards of

MacEachen's heyday, when he engineered the federal takeover of Sydney's coalfields in 1967. And still to come in the region are harder, wrenching changes to the unemployment insurance system that took its current shape under the Liberals of Pierre Trudeau and MacEachen in the early 1970s.

As the church spire of Antigonish appears on the horizon, MacEachen is reminded of a recent speech he made castigating the Reform party and the Conservative government of Tony Martin as "forces gathered against Liberal values." He is asked whether the current Liberal government, retreating from social program spending and its past interventionist posture, could be added to that list. He gives a pat answer, pointing to recent federal legislation he likes, and observing that governments appear right-wing when they grapple with these problems. But one thing is certain: the Liberals, the country and the public mood have changed mightily since MacEachen's salad days. And his old school, St. FX, could not have picked a better time than his official Senate retirement on Saturday, July 6, when he turns 75, to host a conference on the shape of public policy in the third millennium. In attendance, along with MacEachen, were his old boss, Pierre Trudeau, cabinet colleague Marc Lalonde, and Sylvia

Osby, former chairwoman of the Economic Council of Canada. MacEachen's future now includes plans to promote Gaelic culture. He says that he is also in the process of deciding whether to write his memoirs. A coal miner's son, MacEachen grew up in company housing in desperate poverty on the west side of Cape Breton. One of his earliest memories was the sound of the whistle at the mines, signalling the possibility of work for miners, as dictated by orders for coal. It was the whistling sound of the market, and it told him and women like his parents whether that week's pay envelope would be merely thin, or even thinner. Much of MacEachen's political career can be summed up as a struggle against that whistle, the fight to control the effect of raw market forces. "He believes," says a former executive assistant, Dave MacLean, "that society is much more than a market."

MacEachen had his political awakening at St. FX, where the legendary Father Moses Coady, founder of the Antigonish Movement, preached a gospel of co-operation as a way to address poverty and social ills. MacEachen continued his studies in political economy at the University of Toronto, earning graduate degrees in economics at the University of Chicago and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also tried to find ways in which political action could address social problems. His chosen instrument was the

MacEachen with Pearson in 1963, defying group about the lifting of the nuclear ban.



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Liberal Party of Canada, and his beginnings were unimpressive. He lost his first federal election battle in 1949 to a retired judge who once served under Wilfrid Laurier. "It's ironic," says MacEachen, noting that he has clung to political office longer than his first adversary. "I was young and eager, and I thought he was too old for the job."

He soon had a chance to harness his youthful energy when, four years later, he won the nomination and was elected to the House of Commons. He was re-elected in 1957, then narrowly lost his seat in the Tory landslide the following year. In 1962, his constituents returned MacEachen to Parliament, where he was appointed a labor minister by Lester Pearson and introduced a national labor standards code, which improved conditions for workers. As health and welfare minister, he brought in Medicare in 1966 after a drastic struggle with fiscal conservatives in his own party. He played a key role in the country's adoption of the Canada Pension Plan and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. "He was a linchpin in the creation of the modern welfare state," says Peter Nicholson, a former Nova Scotia MLA who says he is an "uninformed but" of MacEachen. Nicholson, who was also an adviser to Finance Minister Paul Martin and in new senior vice-president of corporate strategy with BCE Inc., adds, "It is a legacy that enables Canada to be among the best countries in the world by the United Nations."

Still, MacEachen's reputation is most distinct in Atlantic Canada, where he displayed an unflinching loyalty to his constituents and their regional neighbors. With rapid growth in government revenues during the 1960s and 1970s, MacEachen and progressive cabinet colleagues like Newfoundland's Don Jamieson were driving forces behind an aggressive program of regional economic development. MacEachen's stopgap grants became a laboratory for experiments in job creation, and job underwriting, by the federal government and its provincial partners.

Example abound, from the inauguration of the Sydney coalfields in 1967, to federal support for the provincial takeover of Sydney's antiquated, turn-of-the-century steel works in the same year. MacEachen used federal grants, tax breaks and his political clout to attract large industry like oil refineries, re-manufacturing, pulp and paper mills, and heavy water production in support of Canada's nuclear reactor sales. The region received a mountain of infrastructure money for such projects as roads, vocational schools and universities, hospitals and hundreds of federal schools and broadens in tiny rural communities.

In combination with spiralling federal transfer payments to individuals, from federal programs to an expanded unemployment insurance program that encouraged annual work, the Liberals fostered material growth in public spending. But even advocates like Judith Mowatt, a Nova Scotia and former president of the Economic Council of Canada, have urged a rethink about the results of MacEachen's regional legacy. "More—not all, but more—



of the infrastructure spending was desperately needed," she says. "But the other part of the legacy of MacEwen and his times was the dependence. It was always the right thing, for that day or that week, but I don't think it was always right for the long term. You wonder, for example, what constructive alternatives could have been found to unemployment insurance while there was still so much money around."

MacEwen defends his record fiercely. He notes, for example, that spending on infrastructure remains popular, and he reacts with angry disgust when the words of a Globe and Mail columnist, charging that the decade was a "bittered with make-work projects" from his era, are put to him. "That's silly," he says bluntly, "and you treat it the way you treat silly. You move away from it." He also disputes the notion that a culture of dependence has emerged in Atlantic Canada. When reminded of the heavy reliance on unemployment insurance in rural areas, he answers, "Are we supposed to turn out these communities back on these communities? And we can't do that."

But although MacEwen, throughout his career, struggled for control of the market's whistle in Cape Breton and beyond, that control has proved elusive. Now, as his public career ends, the whistle is blowing loudly again in the form of globalization and privatization, in the relentless pressure of energy competition that threatens the future of Cape Breton coal, and in the country's dispute with the costs of subsidies and social programs that MacEwen continues to have a democratic faith in the public's wisdom to shape humane government policies. During his 27-year Commonsense career, after all, MacEwen drew political strength from his "citizen" identity rituals in his riding, from his church pulpit, his self-help audiences with constituents who told him their problems in their own words. "Liberal values have to be debated and discussed," he says. "You can't just conclude that everything that is proposed is good for the country, simply because there is a mood. Moods change. And I have the impression that the mood is changing again from my reading, people are saying, I want the government downsized, there's no respect for the individual." Is that a matter of indifference? Do the corporations have any responsibility? Or do you accept the notion of very high unemployment, which leads to a lot of other problems?" At over four decades, MacEwen, at least, is still asking questions that matter.

A case for the Copps

The PM picks Sheila to take on the separatists

With her fondness for self-promotion and shooting from the hip, Heritage Minister Sheila Copps has never been regarded as a model of discretion. Throughout the Quebec referendum campaign last fall, the then environment minister privately fumed at the negative tone of the federalist campaign—and at the fact that she, and all other Liberal MPs from outside the province, were discouraged by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien from playing a major role. She was particularly annoyed when she seemed to make a speech at the giant Oct. 27 rally only in Montreal, only to be

seen. Most important, it responds to Chretien's strongly held belief that the decision of the Oct. 30 referendum—which the No side won by a mere 54,800 votes—resulted from the province's Conservative government's interest in pleasing voters' pockets at the expense of poisoning Canada. In a recent conversation with an acquaintance, Chretien, among other things, lamented that three former Tory ministers supported the Yes side in the referendum, complained sarcastically, "Those guys were so interested in being nice to the Parti Québécois that they ended up joining them."

At a political level, the creation of the identity agency also signals a new willingness on Chretien's part to allow non-Quebec MPs to participate in the unity debate. Ontario Liberals, in particular, have been increasingly critical of Chretien's strategy—or avowed lack of one—towards Quebec, and have accused they he more interested in Copps, an anglophone minister whose French is fluent and colloquial, in an obvious choice to speak with Quebec on behalf of other Canadians. And her own role as another gesture of conciliation by Chretien—the Prime Minister wanted no name resembling her to cabinet after her June 17 by-election win that followed her endorsement in the midst of the furor over the government's attempted policy on the Goods and Services Tax.

Predictably, the creation of the agency was criticised on both fronts by separatists in Quebec who dislike the idea as a principle, and fiscal conservatives, including Reform party MPs, who called the move a waste of money. And news of its creation came in the midst of a bad week for two enduring national symbols: Canada as National announced that it will shut down or sell off almost 3,000 km of railway track in five provinces, while the Canadian railway said it was investigating reports that two soldiers serving as peacekeepers in Haiti delayed two paper bags on Canada Day. On Canada's troubled unity front, it is never that easy as Copps prepares to try to dispel some negative images, it is becoming a little bit harder to find positive images to promote.

ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH is in Ottawa.

Canada NOTES

B.C. BUDGET FLAP

Only days after presenting a budget claiming balanced books, B.C. Finance Minister Andrew Petter acknowledged that the province was actually in the red. Policy cancellations late in the fiscal year, which ended on March 31, had put a huge dent into expected logging revenues. Petter said, resulting in a \$225-million deficit. Fiscal responsibility featured prominently in B.C. Premier Glen Clark's recent election campaign. For the current year, Petter predicted a \$18-million surplus.

RULING ON A JUDGE

A committee of the Canadian Judicial Council recommended that a Quebec judge should be removed from the bench for inappropriate conduct and comments. During a December, 1995, master trial, Justice Jean Blais was said that the Nazis had shown more mercy to Jews during the Holocaust than the Israeli government had shown to its husband when she slit his throat. The recommendation will be sent to the full Canadian Judicial Council, which will likely study it in the fall before suggesting a course of action to Justice Minister Allan Rock. Blais was also said that he intends to fight any attempt to disbar him.

WAR CRIMES SETBACK

Justice Bob Gauthier of the Federal Court of Canada stayed deportation proceedings against three elderly Canadian citizens suspected of being Nazi war criminals. Gauthier said that a March 1 meeting between Federal Court Chief Justice Justice Iacobucci and Judge Thompson, a senior provincial judge, during which the three elderly Canadians were present, how slowly the case was proceeding, clearly left the impression that there had been "judicial interference" and these three respondents would not be coming before an independent court.

DEATH IN NEREMUDA

Canadian Rebecca Middleton, 17, was murdered while on vacation with a friend's family in Bermuda. According to reports, the Belleville, Ont., teenager was brutally raped and then was repeatedly stabbed. Earlier this year, another Belleville teenager, Mark Pyles, 13, was shot to death during spring break in Florida.



BAD MEMORIES:

Capt. Mark Sargent, a chaplain with the now-disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment, stands over board and bloodied civilians during Canada's ill-fated peacekeeping mission to Somalia in 1992-1993. The photo raised new questions about the Airborne's coast duty in the troubled African country, during which two Somalis were killed by Canadian soldiers. "If you've got the padre just posing for pictures with deadlies, where are the guidelines?" asked Tony Taylor, editor of *Exposé* and *Mac's* magazine. "It's indicative of what went wrong with the mission." Sargent would not comment on the photo, which was given to the *Somalia Inquiry* by Capt. Michel Pavesio, who served in the mission.

A tragic accident in Bosnia

Canadian soldier Christopher Bilogian had already phoned his mother in St. Claude, Man., to tell her that his peacekeeping mission in Bosnia was almost over and that he would be home in six days. But on July 4, the day after he had the 22-year-old bomb-disposal expert was killed and six other members of his squadron injured while going to the rescue of 11 British soldiers whose vehicle had become trapped in a minefield. A Canadian military spokesman said that the accident vehicle in which the seven soldiers were travelling inexplicably overturned on a highway near the Bosnian town of Ilidza. The soldiers were members of the 23 Field Engineer Squadron from Petawawa, Ont. "It was basically a traffic accident," said Maj. James Rietz from CFB Petawawa.

Among the worst injured were Master-Cpl. Mike Beland, 34, of Ottawa, who sustained injuries to his legs and Spigot Sergeant Martin, 30, of Orleans, Ont., who suffered burns to his arms. Military spokesmen said that both were in stable condition, and that Bilogian's body would be flown home to Manitoba for burial. "I had a feeling he wasn't coming back," said Alberta Bilogian, the dead man's uncle. "We always told him it was dangerous. But he said, 'You could go here or go over there. When it comes, it comes.'"

Blocking the RCMP's Airbus investigation

Major Justice Howard Wetton of the Federal Court of Canada issued a ruling that creates a major obstacle for RCMP officers investigating the so-called Airbus affair. In response to an application from Canadian businessman Karlheinz Schreiber, Wetton ruled that, under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the federal justice department must satisfy a Canadian court that it has reasonable grounds to believe a crime has been committed before asking law enforcement agencies in other countries to conduct searches of private property. The ruling effectively blocks the RCMP's attempts to gain access to Schreiber's Swiss bank accounts, with the co-operation of Swiss authorities. The RCMP allege that Schreiber bought \$2 million in suspected payments to former prime minister Brian Mulroney and lobbyist Paul Moore for their role in Air Canada's \$1.8-billion purchase of aircraft from Airbus Industrie in 1988. Mulroney hotly denies these claims.



Chretien at 1995 rally, "enhances the sense of Canadian identity"

rebelled by organizers. But Copps is nothing of a radical; she remained unhesitatingly loyal and low-key during the campaign and its aftermath.

Now, the 43-year-old Copps need be silent no longer. That week, Ottawa will finally announce the creation of a new, \$15-million agency to be run by Copps's department. In one, and an adviser to Chretien, will be to "enhance the sense of Canadian identity and explode the myths perpetuated by separatists and others about the federal system." The agency will attempt to achieve those goals through steps ranging from words to exchanges among different provinces to the creation of explicit advertising campaigns encouraging an increased sense of pride in Canada. And Copps, in turn, will be front and centre in Quebec, defending Canada.

The move is significant for several rea-

RUNNING FOR COVER

BY JENNIFER WELLS

When I graduated, I decided to become a welder, and someday I wanted to be in a position where I was calling the shots in building mines the right way and creating jobs.

Clifford Iremore, chief executive officer of Curragh Inc., in Northern Miner magazine, May, 1992

Nothing and no person with one light to sled on this tragedy will escape the severity of this inquiry.

Donald Cameron, then-Premier of Nova Scotia, on May 15, 1992, six days after Curragh's Westray coal mine exploded, killing 26 men

On the morning of May 13, 1992, Shaun Connah pulled on his fireproof suit and headed back down the Westray mine, where four days before he had been working the day shift. He remembers the equipment wrecked, blown all over the place, and two bodies, burned so black that in the dark, in the coal and the rubble, the rescue workers did not see them until they were literally underfoot. He remembers placing Larry [Janice's] charred remains in a fire-resistant orange body bag. He remembers how his fellow rescue workers tried to reach another body, navigated in a twisted mess of machinery. The men moaned up, hoping to rip the same tag off the coveralls on the irretrievable body with its "Shaun all waiting out everywhere." If anyone could crawl inside Shaun Connah's head, those are the snapshots

that would appear, four years after a methane explosion sent a bill of three million to a second through the Westray coal mine, blowing to hell what the men who worked there called a hot hole.

Three weeks ago, Connah had what he hopes is his last appointment with his psychiatrist. "Eventually you realize you've got to live with it," he says.

But there has been no closure. This week, the public inquiry into the disaster recommenced in Stellarton, across the East River from the mine, for the final days of scheduled testimony. Over the past eight months, Connah has heard tale that he did not already know. From the submissions of technical experts who criticized the precarious state of the mine, to the horrifying testimony of the miners, to the attempted exoneration of the interviewees pursued of profit making and political gain, the inquiry has confirmed what Connah always knew—that Westray, from its opening in September, 1961, was a disaster waiting to happen.

'If they were not training and monitoring properly, it's your bloody fault, man'



The coal mine's intracranial explosion was a disaster for one of the 26 victims (above) seeking answers

About the only thing Connah did not expect was the stunning offering of former Nova Scotia premier Donald Cameron, now Canada's consul general in Boston. Cameron first blamed the federal government, which, he said, decided to "play some games" and hold the project up for 14 months. That, he said, "resulted in the change of company plans and led to the development of the south-west section where the explosion occurred. Most people would be alive today if this process were allowed to proceed in a normal basis." Then, Cameron boldly blamed the miners. "Who was it that changed that meter? Who was pressing the reset button on the machine, wouldn't shut down this safety device? Who was shuffling off the dead collectors? The bottom line is that that mine blew up on that morning because of what was going on in there at that time."

Connah, 46, who now works for a computer programming firm in Halifax, says he "really didn't think [Cameron] would take it that far and sit there and blame dead men. That's the oldest cliché. Blame the dead guy, he can't talk back." Says Isabel Gilis, one of the most outspoken of the Westray widows, "It's calling my husband a murderer. Gilis's husband, Myles, was 35 when he died of carbon monoxide poisoning the morning of May 13.

This week, Colin Benner, Graham Clow and Trevor Eagles will take the stand in Stellarton. Eagles was an on-site engineer at Westray who worked on mine planning. He should be able to speak to the company's hasty decision to change courses, moving into the ill-fated south-west section, where the company hoped to mine more coal. Benner was a vice-president for Toronto-based Curragh Inc., Westray's corporate parent. He had worked on a number of Curragh projects, particularly the building of the St. Denis film mine mine in the Yukon. In the fall of 1991, as the roof kept collapsing at Westray and an production failed to come within a country mile of its sales commitments, St. Denis was having problems of its own. Having failed to complete its exploration phase in schedule, the Yukon mine fell in breach of a covenant with its lender, the Bank of Nova Scotia. "They had two going down at the same time," says Adrian White, then Connah's chief financial officer. The bank's demand for accelerated loan payments at St. Denis. His in April, 1992, exacerbated the cash pressures on Curragh—which was also facing millions of dollars in potential penalties from Scotiabank for failing to meet production targets at Westray.

In 1991, Curragh sent Clow east from Toronto to divide up ground conditions at Westray. After the explosion, Clow was one of the dozen men who joined the rescue efforts. Last month, he was among a group of rescue workers awarded Canadian medals of honor in Halifax. Benner is viewed less sympathetically in Stellarton. In his 1993 book, *The Westray Tragedy: A Miner's Story*, Connah called Benner "the pretty boy they had brought in from Toronto to do all the TV reports" after the disaster. Previously Curragh's executive vice-president of operations, he was made president of Westray Coal Inc. just two months before the explosion.

Key to Benner's testimony will be his knowledge of provincial mine safety reports and his assessment of Westray general manager Gerald Phillips' mine underground mine manager Roger Percy. The only two individuals facing criminal proceedings in the case, Phillips and Percy went to trial on charges of manslaughter and criminal negligence causing death in February, 1992. Benner testified in the spring that he had sent a memo to lead

office, on Prince's chief assistant, Diane Webb, remembering that Perry be dead. The case was subsequently stayed on a technicality, the Supreme Court of Canada will likely decide this fall whether the trial should continue. Phillips was subpoenaed by the inquiry after telling the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* in April that "the mine wasn't safe because at some of the things some of the employees maliciously did." He indicated then that, if subpoenaed, he would appear. But as of last week, neither he nor his lawyer had responded to the subpoena. Carragh, too, was named in the criminal proceedings, but went back to work in 1993, long before the case went to trial. Acting Chief Crown attorney Mac Chisholm will only say that "it remains our intention to proceed against Carragh Inc."

Bremer, Clark and Eagles were relatively unaffected by the Carragh corporate pool. The corporation's strategy had been to hook the biggest fish last. But the inquiry launched six days after the explosion, has so far failed in its attempts to bring down the man who was chairman, chief executive, controlling shareholder and creator of Carragh, Clifford France. In November, federal Justice Minister Alan Rock rejected Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Peter Richard's request for a federal mandate—an authority that would have given him, as inquiry commissioner, the power to subpoena witnesses nationally. The commission then went through the motion of issuing a Nova Scotia subpoena—unintentionally in Ontario, where France lives.

It came as a surprise to no one in the Westray investigation that attempts even to serve France have been unsuccessful. Ray Wagner, a Halifax lawyer who represents 18 of the Westray families in a civil action against France and a host of others, has been trying



Gale (third right) with other miners' wives and relatives at the inquiry. We're asking my husband a question.



'THIS IS WORLD WAR III'

A chronology of events leading to the Westray explosion.

Sept. 1, 1988: Five days before a Nova Scotia election, Toronto-based Carragh Resources Inc. announces a \$127-million coal mine near Shelburne, N.S.

Sept. 14, 1988: The Bank of Nova Scotia lends \$300 million to the project, Ottawa guarantees 86 per cent of the loan.

Feb. 9, 1989: Cameron becomes premier after John Buchanan accepts a Senate appointment from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

May 23, 1991: The first of numerous cave-in events when the No. 10 road along 24 ft of tunnel collapses, releasing 1,000 tons of rock. No one is injured. The labor department sends an inspector to investigate. The company hires consultants to study the problem.

Sept. 8, 1988: Provincially owned New Nova Scotia Corp. announces a 17-year deal to buy 700,000 tons of coal a year at between \$60 and \$74 a ton.

Sept. 9, 1988: Cameron confirms that Nova Scotia will contribute a further \$75-million loan annually, whether it needs it or not.

July, 1990: Carragh bids construction of the mine when federal financing arrangements fail to materialize.

partments and the mine safety people are doing as good a job at Westray as they are doing at all other mines in Nova Scotia."

July 29, 1991: Claude White, the province's director of mine safety, receives the first written report from one of his inspectors that there are serious safety concerns at Westray. The problems include excessive coal dust and methane gas.

Aug. 30, 1991: The first trainload of coal leaves Westray for a Nova Scotia Power generating station 11 km away.

Sept. 11, 1991: More than 500 guests gather for the official mine opening. Cameron, Carragh CEO Clifford France and federal Revenue Minister Elmer Mackay, the area's M.P., cut the ribbon.

Oct. 18, 1991: Labor department officials hold a meeting at the mine to discuss road conditions and the seven rock falls that have occurred since 1988, three in the previous three weeks.

Nov. 4, 1991: The labor department issues a written

to have France served since May, 1990. He says every time a process server shows up at France's 250-acre spread in Uxbridge, north of Toronto, there's every sign of life, but no sign of the living. Last week, France was not answering the phone at the country estate he calls Carraghdale. "You journalists have been very unfair to him in the past," says a woman there. "Very, very, I would say, mean." Russell MacLellan, Liberal M.P. for Carrington/The Sydney, says France has much to answer for. MacLellan shares responsibility for Decca, the federally run Cape Breton coal mine, and he has been pushing for Westray answers from Day 1. "This happened in a company controlled by a man who has been mining in this country for decades," he says. "How does it happen? How was this allowed to happen?" But MacLellan, too, was not expecting any voluntary involvement from

France. "I taught him coming forward on his own," he says. "I mean, there would be mountains in Saskatchewan first."

In what now seems an eleven-hour movie, the commission probed the province to pass required legislation to enforce Nova Scotia subpoenas in Ontario. When the law took force in March, Toronto lawyer Alan Lencaster started pursuing France on behalf of the commission. But that lost him a roadblock when France's own lawyer, Charles Scott, insisted that neither of his clients—

France and Marvin Polley, Carragh's second-in-command—has anything "material" to add to the proceedings. A hearing is scheduled in Halifax on July 28. Even if Nova Scotia upholds its earlier decision, and even if Ontario enforces the application, France is likely to appeal. Inquiry head Richard has said he wants to start hearing oral submissions from counsel by the end of this month.

In a *Montreal* interview in March, John Merrick, chief counsel for the commission, said there were many reasons why it was important to get France to testify. "We would like to know how this company became involved with the project, we would like to know management's position as to how the project was developed. We would like their views on some of the statements that have been made as to the approach to safety that was being developed."

The jurisdictional chaos has effectively diverted an examination of Westray from that of its corporate parent. And France is key to a number of pieces in the puzzle. There is, first, his role in what Cameron calls the "political over" surrounding the financing of the \$127-million mine, for which Carragh asked up just \$8 million in cash. Then there is

Cameron as the stand-in investigator examining the wreckage of a tractor inside the mine (left) a twisted mess

MacLellan later says that the discussion dealt only with France's injuries

March 9, 1992: Mike Piche, an inspector for the United Steel workers of America, meets with miners about forming a union. In an internal report, Piche reports that safety at the top mine is on the upswing. drive. Mike Piche: "I strongly feel there will be no more killed in the near future."

March 28, 1992: Another cave-in releases methane gas in the southwest section of the mine. The area is temporarily abandoned. Air samples taken by agencies show the meth readings are close to the explosive level.

April 2, 1992: Carragh sends a memo to White, its boss, reporting on a visit two days earlier to the southwest section. "The methane readings in this area have been recorded from one to four per cent. The methane is coming in waves."

The manager has the situation under control."

April 25, 1992: Labor departs. Officials, including White and MacLellan, order Westray of Scotia to clear the mine of coal dust and introduce a system to monitor further accumulation.

April 30, 1992: Nova Scotia Power completes that Westray is the worst of production suits.

May 9, 1992: At 3:16 a.m., a methane explosion in the southwest section rips through the mine. Cameron acts to early morning when calling in that the mine is trapped. Westray does not know how many are underground.

May 15, 1992: Cameron announces Justice Peter Richard of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court trial division to lead an inquiry into the deaths of 26 miners at Westray.

DAVID ESTICK

the status of the web of France operations in the months leading to the explosion. Even before Scottabank put pressure on Curragh over the St. Denis Hes loss payback, the company had been dominated by low cost-efficiency projects in its Paris-based office in the Yukon. Desperate for cash, France put Westray on the block in the fall of 1991, with Morgan Stanley & Co. in New York City acting as sales agent. Louis Cooper, who worked for the firm for 18 years, says a number of interested buyers visited the mine.

In November, Pelley notified Nova Scotia that Westray had not been able to reach sales agreements on projected 1993 production. The province had signed a so-called take-or-pay deal with Westray guaranteeing to purchase 275,000 tons of coal, on top of the 700,000 tons a year contracted to the province's electrical utility, should the company fail to find other buyers. The take-or-pay was due to be inspected in a court of law in 1991. Pelley requested, and was granted, a postponement until June 30, 1992. Cooper says at least one U.S. mining company was examining Westray's books just before the explosion. At the very least, triggering the take-or-pay clause would have turned up the political heat on Westray at a sensitive stage in its financial life. In his testimony, Cameron said that he, too, took payback, which he handed the company in September, 1988, 16 months before it was acquired by the cabinet.

It had been an early commitment theory that France intended all along to flip the publicly financed mine for a fat profit. Certainly, the various bankings were as pretty as can be, even if the tenants underneath served as outposts for the miners. In late 1991, France wrote to former premier John Buchanan warning him that if the flip theory, much discussed in political circles, didn't know where. Nevertheless, the commission would like to know how much cash was being pumped into Westray to finance its myriad problems.

As key as France is to unraveling the chain of politics and money and Westray, his most important role is more subtle. It was as a mining engineer, who at Curragh drew upward lines that many directors as good friends and long-time lawyer Wilbur Ross and former prime minister John Turner, outsiders all. In September 1991, Benter and Pelley joined the board, as did White. White says those "wasn't an appearance of embezzlement" at the board level, and he cannot understand why France does not come forward. "That's the bit that's mystified me for years."

But France was not known for his comradely leadership style,



France, his lawyer says he has nothing material to add

corporate lawyers said, while not naming names, stating that one manager's "performance in the end will be his own." This kind of blame-laying gets under Bob Evans's skin. Evans is a Toronto-based consultant, much respected for his views on corporate ethics and the accountability of officers and directors. "To turn that right around on him [France] and say, 'You're the one who hires them, you're the one who's responsible for their training and development, what they will and will not do and then for com-

ing that to make them your wishes are being followed. That's your responsibility as a chief executive and it's the same responsibility, somewhat reduced, that each of your managers had. If they were not insured and supervising and monitoring properly, if they weren't demanding appropriate safety standards, is your bloody fault, man, because in the end you're warning the admin's clerk: if you put a bunch of people out there who either didn't know how to do it or didn't give a shit about doing a decent job, that could go back on your plate."

On years ago, executives would have paused over how to translate such seemingly soft issues as leadership and accountability and moral responsibility into something concrete.

Now, lawmakers are starting to figure out what laws to do just that. Last year, corporate culture became a basis for criminal liability in Australia. Corporations can now be found criminally responsible for allowing their directors to create a climate that leads to excessive compliance with legal requirements.

Sally, the Westray inquiry has so far failed to come to grips with these concepts, which one commission staff member calls "nebulous." MP Joe MacKellie does not see it that way at all. In his mind, the line of responsibility is clear. "Let's not," he says, "allow the trial to go cold and assume that as case after case, that's just not the case." □

and White says he has an idea what the boss knew and when he knew it. Analyzing Curragh's logs not only an understanding of the reports going up the chain of command, but an assessment of how France discharged his responsibilities, and what lead-off options were in place to assure safety.

When the inquiry rolls down to the final analysis, substantive statements are, instead, likely to focus on health and safety regulations, since updated, and the Coal Mines Regulation Act, a creation of the 1970s, and its subsequent by the province and the federal government. Thus, says Roy Wagner, the "corporate veil will be left intact."

In a letter to his shareholders two months after the explosion, France said Curragh wanted to know "exactly what happened, and what can be done to ensure it can never happen again." The later deflected questions as to how the tragedy could have happened, pointing cast from his Toronto



Don Allan and Rod Robinson is a rage. Blatantly in front of his television in Grand Cache, Alta., the 65-year-old coal miner is searching taped excerpts from the Westray inquiry as another in what seems to him, a parade of Nova Scotia government officials squirms on the witness stand. "It's as full of crap, you can walk him through the television," Robinson says, working himself into such a fever that his wife, Mary, switches off the set. "I can't believe the Nova Scotia government had some of these guys working for them. They didn't know nothing from nothing."

As for the oldest and one of the most experienced coal miners at Westray, Rod Robinson was respected by many of his co-workers. A native of Cape Breton, he had worked underground since he was 17. He spent 23 years at the Spooky River coal mine in Grand Cache before taking a job at the Miramix Westray mine in the spring of 1991.

Westray was like no other mine Robinson had ever seen. For the first time in his life, he found himself working 12-hour shifts underground instead of the usual eight, pushed to meet production targets as the mine's management ordered new projects after meetings. Then there was the noise—the loud cracking of the mine rock, the hissing of methane gas from the walls, which, recalls Robinson, "sounded like a bunch of snakes." Although no expense was spared to purchase some of the most sophisticated coal-mining equipment available, few of the miners knew how to use it properly, he says. Most had some of your experience, and those who did came usually from back-bench mines, where the risk of cave-ins and explosions is much lower.

Robinson says he complained several times about dangerous

conditions, and even phoned provincial mine inspector Albert McLean at his home to discuss the unsafe conditions in the mine. He finds it hard to believe that inspectors could visit Westray and not be aware of the problems. "There is nobody who walks into a coal mine and doesn't see it," he says. McLean, he adds, told him that his "hands were tied" and that his role was simply to write reports and send them up the ladder.

So far, only one government official has lost his job over Westray: Jack Noonan was head of Nova Scotia's occupational health and safety division until five provinces fired him during a departmental shakedown in December, 1991. Noonan, a mining engineer who had worked for Inco Ltd. in Sudbury, Ont., for 25 years, had taken the job in 1986, the same year Nova Scotia passed a new Occupational Health and Safety Act. The act, in an attempt to catch up to more progressive legislation in Ontario and British Columbia, combined a concept known as the internal responsibility system, pioneered by electrical engineer James H. Brown in a landmark 1970 report about unionism raising for the Ontario government. Under OHS, managers and workers share responsibility through joint health and safety committees.

The new act also gave employees the right to refuse an unsafe work. But while that right was in place in the time of the Westray disaster, it was rarely used. And although the act compels workplaces with more than 20 employees to strike a health and safety committee, Westray's committee did not meet until after the explosion.

David Roberts, a lawyer representing the United Steelworkers of America at the Westray inquiry, says that government officials used the internal responsibility system as an excuse not to take action. "They are they can't be held accountable because of the internal responsibility system," he says.

Eleven months after the explosion, the management consulting firm of Coopers & Lybrand released a six-page report on the labor department, which is responsible for occupational health and safety. The report, prepared for the province but never tabled at the inquiry, described a department wracked by poor morale and lacking any

comprehensive filing system to record, track or follow up on safety violations. The report's authors said the division was too busy to run and had no systematic means for obtaining client feedback.

Jim LeBlanc, Noonan's successor, says the province has acted on many of the report's recommendations. In May, the province passed a new Occupational Health and Safety Act, which comes into effect on Jan. 1. The new act strengthens the right to refuse unsafe work and, for the first time, states that owners—as well as employers and employees—are responsible for workplace health and safety. That, says the new act, establishes "a clear chain of responsibility for health and safety." But LeBlanc adds that the department has only 23 inspectors to monitor 20,000 workplaces across the province. Noonan told the inquiry he knew little about working conditions at Westray except for some oral caveats. He added that he put his trust in McLean, who is still working as an inspector.

In Halifax, Noonan complained that the inquiry has gone on far too long, adding that it is all but impossible to know what really happened that May evening. "The best witnesses are dead," he says. "They knew what was going on. The rest of us didn't."

Mike's Picks

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The Bottom Line

Out, but not yet down

Adam Zimmerman has absolutely no intention of going "poorly" as to that good night. In fact, he plans to make a modest amount of noise on July 22. That's his last day as a director of Southern Inc.—a company on whose board he has served for 20 years. His started on the board with Clarkson, Gordon, the white shoe accounting firm that was restructured into Adam Young in 1989. He started at Southern as assistant controller in 1986. And by the time he retired in 1993, he was chairman of Southern Forest.

But the rules of engagement had changed by then. Noranda was in the grip of the 50-per-cent group, the environmental web of holding companies that dominated Canadian business in the 1980s. There was little love left between the group and Zimmerman. And instead of a gold watch, upon retirement he was presented with the board's contents of his office and a tussle over his pension benefits.

He then went on to become the chairman of Confederation Life, a year before the ill-fated insurance company collapsed under the rubble of bad real estate investments. It was a turning point in Canadian corporate history: the outrage that accompanied Confederation's failure drew unprecedented public attention to the responsibility of directors.

As more colonies crumbled, directors were goaded to become more aggressive, proactive guardians of shareholder interests. A Senate review of corporate governance issues is now under way. And the business school at the University of Western Ontario has launched an executive program to educate corporate directors.

But after years at the board table, Zimmerman remains resigned about the push for sweeping change. "You can modify behavior at best. You can create a well-defined process. But you can't legislate personality," he admits. And where there's a strong, controlling shareholder—as there is in so many Canadian companies—there's only so much directors can do. In the end, says Zimmerman, it's one man's judgment against another. And in "public society" you don't pressure to affect your judgments on others. But then, we're no longer talking about public society.

and why companies now honor their implicit obligations to society, to community and to employees.

Adam Zimmerman is the classic company man. As recounted by *Business Week*, he worked with Clarkson, Gordon, the white shoe accounting firm that was restructured into Adam Young in 1989. He started at Southern as assistant controller in 1986. And by the time he retired in 1993, he was chairman of Southern Forest.

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The Nation's Business



Peter C. Newman

Driving a red sports car into banker's heaven

Canadian bankers are generally a nice lot, secretive and uptight, hardly into the symbols of their economic clout, such as private jets and stretch limousines. John Clarkson, chairman of the Royal Bank of Canada, broke the mould when he bought himself all the bank's Challenger stretch and bought himself a production-line Chrysler.

But Bill Dalton, 50, the nation's fastest-growing banker, regards the corporate trappings of his job as basically silly. President of the Vancouver-based Hong Kong Bank of Canada, he's as informal as if he were running a summer camp. He doesn't even as pretend to be a workaholic, with the Internet, belongs to no fancy clubs, has the keys and parts of a stereo, and then, there's his car: a 1989 Triumph TR6, a low-slung two-seater much like the one Diana Rigg used to chase "natives" during *The Avengers* TV series. It gets worse: Dalton's vintage vehicle was originally mint green, but earlier this year he had it painted deep-forest red.

That's enough to get you dismissed out of the Canadian Bankers' Association. The only other Canadian banker who dared drive a red sports car, after all, was Howard Eaton, head of Edmonton's Canwest Commercial Bank, who once owned a Porsche 911E. The bank, the car and Eaton, who was dealing with credit-worried Toronto firms after Leonard Rosenberg, all ended up on the rocks in 1985.

But Dalton's net worried. His bank's net income grew by 38 per cent last year, and its assets are well over \$40 billion. The country's seventh-largest bank, the Hong Kong Bank has grown by absorbing smaller Canadian banking operations such as the Bank of British Columbia, AMZ Bank, Lloyd's, the Midland and, most recently, Barclay's. It now has 112 branches, is in every province except Prince Edward Island, and has expanded into leasing, money management, insurance, brokerage, discount brokerage and mutual funds.

And he's still going to get the biggest international bank in Canada, "Dalton led me, and we are, because none of the other Canadian banks can match our global capabilities." What he's talking about are the bank's links through its parent company, HSBC Holdings PLC of London, which, as owner of the capital at its disposal, ranks as the world's largest banking conglomerate, with assets of \$514 billion, and 1,300 offices in 72 countries.

Hong Kong-based clients are encouraged to open their bank accounts before they know, so that their business is lined up even before they hit our shores. "We have this 150-year history in Asia," says Dalton, "and unlike other Canadian banks who view their Asian business as one segment of their operations, for us it's the mainstream. Some other Canadian banks have more people working in Asian banking than we do, but what they don't have in the house, Hong Kong Bank, and we take full advantage of that."

Dalton has made a special effort to cater to Chinese clients by

expanding himself in western Chinatown across the country. Its new branch in Vancouver's Chinatown, for example, is housed in a \$10-million, five-story building that has 2,500 daily deposit boxes and a huge fish tank, representing *Ang* also, the happy relationship between humanity and nature.

Dalton boasts that his bank has the country's lowest loan loss ratio—half the Big Six average. "Being the new boys on the block 15 years ago, we recognized this was an opportunity to get into serious trouble, because everybody would be trying us out. So we decided one way to avoid big hits was not to speculate in big loans, and 85 per cent of our lending is far less than \$500,000. And instead of borrowing our customers with 150 accounts or so, our competitors do, we assign them only 40 or 50 accounts. That way, we know much more quickly who is getting into trouble, and if we can help them out. All so our people know when not to blow the whistle, because every situation is different."

John Clave, who preceded Dalton at the bank and now heads the Hong Kong's American operation, was responsible for formulating the house strategy of streamlining personal services. "It sounds so motherly and so boring," Dalton admits, "but when we set up that bank, we knew that we couldn't give loans cheaper than anyone else, that we couldn't pay more on deposits, and that even if we managed to lowest new products, the other guys would have them the next day and spend 10 times as much promoting them, and have 1,500 more branches to sell them through. So, we decided we were going to compete on customer service—and we've managed to achieve that."

Four times a year, the bank surveys its customers and it has so far received lower ratings. According to a recent Canadian Bankers' Association survey, 64 per cent of the Hong Kong's small business customers said they would recommend the Hong Kong Bank to their friends and associates. Unlike most bank CEOs, Dalton is content on the growth at his bank, to make certain customers aren't unhappy. Maybe he cares more because he grew up without privilege, having been raised in the east end of Vancouver, not being able to attend university until he did so as an adult, financed by a Bank of Montreal scholarship. He spent 18 years at the BMO, starting as a teller, and was recruited in 1980, when Gene Nemeth, another BMO employee, was asked to open the Hong Kong's operations in Vancouver and he asked Dalton to be his assistant.

Dalton's enviable position at the moment is to decide how he his bank should grow. Doubling its assets to \$50 billion is attainable, but he fears such a rapid right might as culture. Maybe he's mellowing a bit. He bought a new sedan recently it was a BMW 325i with a two-speed transmission and MAG automatic wheels. "That's about as burly as I can get, and still be legal," he says—sounding like any banker. Ever green?

Travelling here could be hazardous to your health.

Whether you're travelling for business or pleasure, you can get hepatitis A anywhere on earth. It is the most common traveller's disease that can be prevented by a vaccine.

And the answer isn't staying home or booking only classy resorts.

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get hepatitis A.

Up to 20% of visitors end up in hospital with jaundice, persistent vomiting, diarrhea, fever and abdominal pain. Most miss an average of four weeks of work.

Also frightening. The symptoms usually don't appear for a month. Time enough to infect family and co-workers.

Because hepatitis A is a serious liver disease, the Canadian Liver Foundation supports the World

Health Organization's endorsement of vaccination prior to travel outside Canada, the U.S., western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Ask your doctor or travel clinic how just one vaccine can protect you against hepatitis A.

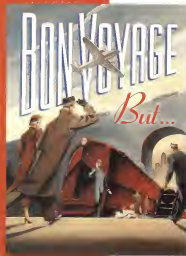
For more information, please call the Canadian Liver Foundation at 1-800-563-5463.

It's hazardous around here.



Travel Smart:

Be Prepared



It's a fact — Canadians love to travel. Each year we make more than 90 million trips abroad for both business and pleasure.

How do you ensure a hassle-free trip? Do your homework before you leave Canada. Find out about the countries you plan to visit, learn their laws and customs and make sure that your personal documents are in order before you board that plane, train or bus.

Most trips go smoothly. However, if you do find yourself in trouble, you can call or visit the nearest Canadian embassy or consulate. From assisting with medical emergencies to ensuring equitable treatment under local laws, Canadian embassies and consulates worldwide work to protect and assist Canadians living or travelling abroad, as well as to promote the interests of Canada and its citizens.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has prepared *Bas Voyage*, *But...* and a number of free booklets that deal with the nuts and bolts of travelling abroad, whether next door to the United States or across the ocean to Asia, Africa or Europe. Obtain copies before you leave — they're full of handy travel tips, phone numbers and addresses.

Have a great trip. And help make it great by being prepared.

For more information on Canadian resources abroad and what we can do for you or travel information reports for more than 150 countries, call 1-800-367-6788 (in Canada) or 955-6788 if you are calling from Ottawa.

To order *Bas Voyage*, *But...* and other booklets, call 1-800-267-8376 (in Canada) or 944-0000 if you are calling from Ottawa.

Visit the DFAIT World Wide Web site at <http://www.dfaits-maei.gc.ca>

Online Access: Compuserve subscribers can access this information through Maclean's Online (GOMACLEAN5)

Canada

Using a foreign telephone operator to call home can be a headache.

So take two of these.



Or get one of these.



If you travel to the U.S. or abroad, don't leave Canada without a Canada Direct™ wallet card.

Canada Direct is simply your cheapest, most convenient way to call home from outside Canada. You can bypass foreign operators and avoid exorbitant hotel phone surcharges by connecting directly to our efficient voice prompts or a bilingual Canadian operator.

Just call collect, or use a HELLLO!™ phone pass. Or toll your calls to your Calling Card or Call-Me™ service to enjoy further savings and discounts on top of the low Canadian telecommunications rates. There is no charge for using the Canada Direct service itself. No hassles, no headaches!

Before you leave Canada, call for your free Canada Direct wallet card that lists all our international access numbers:

1 800 561-8868

Or, visit us on the Internet at:
www.stentor.ca/canada_direct



Associate members: NorthwestTel and Québec-Téléphone

Call Home Hassle-Free with Canada Direct

When Paul Gallant travels abroad on business, he packs a Canada Direct wallet card along with his Canadian passport.

Gallant, President of Montreal's WebSite Inc., a 3D product design and manufacturing company, travels the world to promote and sell his highly successful products. Life away globe-trotting businessperson, Gallant calls home frequently to keep in touch with his business and family. He learned the hard way that overseas calls can be prohibitively expensive. On one business trip to Germany, a 17-minute phone call home to his wife cost \$160. "That was higher than my hotel bill, including my meals," he says.

local operators were using," says Gallant. "Canada Direct helps me avoid these language barriers."

Save money

For Vince Crisp of Ottawa's MedEng Systems Inc., calling the other while he was travelling used to be a major headache. Before he learned about Canada Direct, he tried to save money on long-distance bills by leaving messages with his associates and waiting for

apply on all calls home, according to the time in Canada when the call is placed.

Business and vacation travellers planning an extended stay abroad can take advantage of Canada Direct by applying for Canada World calling service. Mark Griffin, regional director in Europe for Canada World calling service, says travellers can use the service even without a Canadian address. All that is required is a Calling Card and a valid credit card (VISA, MasterCard or American Express). Billing is pre-arranged through the credit card and calls are itemized on a monthly statement.

"The alternative was to run up phone bills that could be as high as \$400 per trip."

End the frustration of overseas calling

Gallant doesn't have to worry any more about costly calls, thanks to Canada Direct. Canada Direct is an operator-assisted long distance service that allows you to place calls to Canada or other countries via a bilingual Canadian operator. Canada Direct calls can be made in many countries from any home, hotel, pay phone or fax machine.

There is no fee for using Canada Direct. Hotels have toll-free access to the service, although some may charge a small connection fee. Once a call is placed it is charged at Canadian long-distance rates, which are among the cheapest in the world. To help reduce callers' costs, the Stentor alliance (an alliance of Canada's major telephone companies) recently automated its Canada Direct service, making it quicker and cheaper to call from abroad.

Canada Direct's automated service enables you to dial the number you wish to reach yourself. And if you need help, a Canadian operator is always available. "There have been times during trips to Asian countries when I have had to guess what the

them to call back. "The alternative was to run up phone bills that could be as high as \$400 per trip," he says. "By using Canada Direct, our phone bills are substantially lower."

Canada Direct makes doing business abroad easy. It can be used to call from country to country as well as to send faxes and make e-mail connections. With automation, as many as five calls can be placed before hanging up. Jean-Pierre Daurand, product manager for Canada Direct, says 40 per cent of business travellers now use the service.

Not just for business

Vacationers also love Canada Direct. There is no need to figure out foreign telephone systems or wait for hotel staff to connect you to an international line. There are also several billing options. Calls can be charged to a Calling Card or CallMe service, or to pre-paid HELLLO! phone passes. Or, Canadian travellers can call home collect.

Customers with Advantage or Real Plus savings plans receive discounts when they use their Calling Cards to call Canada. Time-of-day discounts

Talk us to sleep

When people leave Canada, Griffin says, they realize that talk isn't cheap. Canada World calling service allows them to enjoy the same high level, convenient service at low Canadian rates.

Members of the Stentor alliance are AGT, BCTEL, Bell Canada, Island Tel, Manitoba Telephone System, Maritime Tel & Tel, NBTEL, NewTel Communications, SaskTel and associate members NorthwestTel and Québec-Téléphone.

For more information on Canada Direct, call 1-800-561-8868 or visit the World Wide Web site at http://www.stentor.ca/canada_direct

Overseas residents interested in more information on Canada World can call (613) 781-8080 (from overseas) or 1-800-378-3484 (in Canada).



Planning on Working Abroad? Read This.

You are a Canadian high tech consultant on assignment in Mozambique. Speeding along a dark road one

night you crash your car and are injured quite badly. You are taken to a nearby hospital, but the

doctors are not up to par. It is late and you do not have enough money or contacts to pay or arrange for your evacuation to a better hospital. What do you do?

If you had arranged for comprehensive employment insurance with Telfer International Inc., the problem would be solved. One phone call to their 24-hour assistance service would smooth your way. Telfer International is a Montreal-based insurance administrator that

offers full group insurance benefits to Canadian expatriates on out-of-country work assignments.

"Canadians tend to take their insurance coverage for granted, especially because of our medical and workers' compensation systems. What they don't realize is that this coverage usually ends when they accept work assignments abroad," says Frank Telfer, President and founder of Telfer International Inc. "It's a shock for both employers and employees when they find out how difficult it is to replace full coverage for someone posted outside Canada."

Insurance for everyone, everywhere

In the past, insurance plans were developed primarily for people on stable assignments in stable countries. They generally addressed medical coverage only and required

provincial health care as a base. Additional hazards such as a high-risk occupation or location were not covered.

Telfer, an insurance veteran, saw a niche for providing insurance packages with full benefits to Canadian companies and individuals working abroad. Over the past 25 years, Telfer International's extensive coverage has protected tens of thousands of Canadians working overseas.

"We have an insurance policy for everybody," says Telfer. "From a person with a desk job in Athens to an engineer in a copper mine in Zambia." Coverage extends to people working in relatively low-risk but high-cost countries such as the United States, Japan and Germany, to high-risk areas such as Angola, Bosnia and Zaire.

Unique plans can provide full coverage
Telfer's plans are unique in the travel insurance business. First, they only cover individuals on work assignments, not vacation. Second, people insured by Telfer often travel to remote areas, countries with little unrest, countries that lack a strong medical or transportation infrastructure or to high-risk work sites such as oil rigs, mines and construction sites.

Finally, Telfer offers full coverage not only to Canadians working abroad but also to non-Canadian expatriates

coverage is often the most important benefit in an overseas policy."

"Canadians tend to take their insurance coverage for granted..."

working on overseas assignments on behalf of a Canadian company.

Do your homework when choosing a policy

"Most of the claims are run-of-the-mill, such as fevers, broken bones and rashes — things that can be handled at a local hospital or clinic," explains Telfer. "However, in the event of a serious accident or illness, it's often necessary to transport the individual to a facility where he or she can receive proper treatment. The costs can be enormous and often the charge for the evacuation far exceeds the cost of medical treatment. That's why evacuation

Ensuring you get the right package for your needs is of paramount importance, and Telfer advises Canadians planning to work abroad to do their homework before they choose an insurance plan. "Your requirements will depend on which country you work in," he says. "You don't face the same needs in Belgium as you do in Burundi. The most important thing is to ensure that wherever you are, you have the full coverage you'd expect and receive if you were back in Canada. A strong insurance package can bring you peace of mind, and that's an added bonus when you're working abroad."

For more information on Telfer International Inc., call (514) 284-2002 or fax (514) 284-3203.

ATTENTION

Working anywhere outside Canada without the right insurance can be risky.

Telfer International, with over 25 years' experience, insures Canadians working anywhere outside of Canada, including the United States. We provide complete, flexible coverage that most provincial and private insurance plans cannot.

Contact us and we will be pleased to outline our protection's strength and versatility.

Telephone (514) 284-2002 • Fax (514) 284-3203



TELFER

Our protection goes a long way

Your Passport to the World

Every hour of the working day, more than 600 Canadian passports are processed by the Passport Office. There are more than six million valid Canadian passports in circulation.

"For Canadians, their passport is a ticket to adventure, escape or new business prospects and promotes safety and security. There is a sense of comfort when you carry this document while travelling," says Mike Hutton, Chief Executive Officer of Canada's Passport Office.

Your passport is a document that provides real benefits, such as access to consular services, when you are travelling abroad on vacation or business.

Canadian citizenship confers certain rights and privileges. One of these is the Canadian passport,

which is held in high esteem worldwide. Your passport is the best proof of your Canadian citizenship and is the only confirmation of identity that is accepted in all countries. In addition, it may be required for transactions such as cashing traveller's cheques in a foreign country or obtaining a visa before you reach your destination.

Applying for a passport

The turnaround time for obtaining a Canadian passport can be as little as five working days. Even so, you should not leave a passport application to the last minute. If you are planning a trip abroad, check your passport to ensure it has not expired. If it has, apply for a new one immediately.

Passport applications are available at 25 passport offices across Canada.

Applications are also available at travel agencies and Northern stores, a chain of the North West Company located in northern communities. Obtaining a passport during the off-peak season from June to November will help speed the process.

Children need identification too

A common misconception exists over what kind of identification children need to travel abroad. "Many parents think that if their kids are travelling with them, then



Procrastinators Club

**Ever Wonder
why the
Procrastinators Club
never holds its
annual meeting
abroad?**

**Plan Ahead. Apply for your
Passport today.**

Don't let your next getaway get
lost because you haven't
obtained your passport in time.
Apply for your off-licence, before you set
sail. We have the info, for information,
call toll-free 1-800-567-6988, now.

1-800-567-6988

Canada

they are automatically
created by their passport."

Hutton says "This is not
true. They must be regis-
tered in one of their par-
ents' passports or else have
their own." Children over
16 years of age are
required to apply for their
own passports.

If you plan to register your child
in your passport, keep in mind
that he or she can only travel in
your company. If the parent
who includes the child's
name in his or her passport
cannot travel back to
Canada for whatever
reason, the child has to
remain with that par-
ent. Divorced, single
or common-law par-
ents should check
with the Passport
Office to see what
other documentation they need in
order to travel abroad with their
children.

**"There is a sense of comfort
when you carry this
document while travelling."**

Good is the gold

Your passport is a valuable docu-
ment. As soon as you receive it,
complete the "who to notify in
case of emergency/next of kin"
section and sign the document
where required. While at home,
store your passport in a safe place.

Before you depart, make a photo-
copy of your passport's identifica-
tion page and keep it separate from
the original when you travel. For
added security, leave a photocopy
with a friend or relative at home.
These simple steps may speed the
replacement process if your pas-
port is damaged, lost or stolen.

If your passport is lost
or stolen abroad, file a
report with the local police
and contact the nearest
Canadian mission for a
replacement. You will have
to repeat the entire applica-
tion process as well as
provide a written statement
explaining what happened.

"You should view your passport as
an extension of your Canadian citi-
zenship," says Hutton. "There is care-
fully listing it or having it stolen is a
major inconvenience, one that
can literally stop you in your tracks.
Your passport is your entry to the
world — and that's something you
wouldn't want to lose."

For more information on how to
obtain a Canadian passport, call
1-800-567-6988 (in Canada).

Drugs and Travel: A Prescription for Trouble

She thought it was easy money — a
free trip to the Caribbean to soak up
some sun and pick up some drugs,
then a flight home to Toronto.
\$6,000 richer. But the 20-year-old
woman got a rude surprise when she
was arrested at the airport in
Morrogo Bay and imprisoned in a
Jamaican jail for 18 months for
importing to smuggle marijuana.

"She's actually one of the lucky
ones," says Gar Pardy, Director
General of the Consular Affairs
Bureau of the Department of
Foreign Affairs and International
Trade. "Most Canadians arrested
abroad for drug-related offences
get much stiffer sentences. In fact,
of the hundreds of Canadians lan-
guishing in foreign prisons on
drug charges, the majority
are serving sentences of
five years or longer."

U.S. has zero tolerance

Contrary to popular belief,
the majority of those jailed
are not sequestered in some
exotic locale. Rather, 60 per cent
are serving their time in jails in the
United States.

"Many Canadians forget they're vis-
iting a foreign country when they
travel to the United States and that
its laws and customs are different
from ours," says Pardy. "The U.S.
has zero tolerance for the posses-
sion and smuggling of drugs. If you
get caught, you will probably go to
jail even if you have only a small
amount of drugs in your posses-
sion. What you consider an innocu-
ous joint of marijuana could get
you into serious trouble."

Pleading ignorance is no excuse,
according to Pardy. "Even if you
break the law unknowingly,
whether you innocently carried a
package over the border for a
stranger or a new-found friend, or
you took a quick look at a beach
party, you will most likely be dealt
a harsh penalty," he says. "Drug

offences can result in heavy fines,
long prison sentences or even the
death penalty, depending on
where you're caught."

Take precautions

Pardy says using common sense is
the best rule for staying out of
trouble. "Never carry parcels, gifts
or luggage across borders or
through customs for other people,
under any circumstance," he says.
"Don't cross the border with a
hitchhiker or as a hitchhiker in a
vehicle. You could be found guilty
by association if your friend or
acquaintance is caught carrying
drugs. And, of course, lock your
luggage and never leave it unat-
tended. Somebody could slip a

well as a medical certificate that
shows they are for
medical use.

Learn the laws

Each country has its own customs,
laws and penalties, all different
from Canada's. Before you travel,
you should take time to learn about
the countries you intend to visit.
"In some countries, for instance,
alcohol is strictly prohibited.
Just because you're a visitor
doesn't mean that you can
flout their laws," says Pardy.
"In other countries, you are
guilty until proven innocent
— a concept that is fundamen-
tally different from ours
at home."

Justice Beverly McLachlin concurs.
"People should reasonably expect
to be governed by the laws of the
state in which they are found," she
wrote in a recent unanimous
Supreme Court of Canada ruling.

Preparation and knowledge are
key to a successful trip, says Pardy.
"It's no fun finding these things
out when it's too late and you're in
trouble," he cautions. "Whatever
you do, don't check your pre-
sence with your luggage."

For more information, contact the Anti-
Drug Information Program, Corporate
Communications Division (CCD),
Department of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade, 123 Sussex Drive,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2.



ROOM WITH A VIEW



YOUR TRAVEL DESTINATION SHOULD NOT LOOK LIKE THIS

Carrying drugs across a border can get you a prison sentence – or worse. Don't join the more than 300 Canadians currently serving drug-related sentences abroad.

Drugs: a one-way trip.



Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires Étrangères
et du Commerce International



Canada

Business NOTES

OUT THE DOOR

The board of directors of Hydro Quebec, the country's second-largest utility, fired its president and chief executive officer. Former premier Jacques Parizeau appointed Benoît Mellet to the job only seven months ago. The utility, which is under pressure to cut costs, has recently been plagued by controversy surrounding extravagant spending by executives.

WRONG SIGNAL

The Quebec administration is fighting a plan by Telesat Canada—a company controlled by Canada's nine largest phone companies—to launch two satellites this November that would beam direct-broadcast television signals to remote U.S. markets. U.S. trade officials say the plan is unfair because Canadian regulators would prohibit U.S. satellite companies from offering similar services north of the border. Telesat has been trying to position itself as a major North American satellite provider.

HI-TECH LAYOFFS

The world's third-largest computer-maker, Maynard, Mass.-based Digital Equipment Corp., plans to lay off 7,000 employees, or 12 per cent of its global workforce, because of sluggish personal computer sales. The company would not say how many of its 3,000 Canadian workers would be affected.

PROMISING PENNY STOCKS

Securities regulators in Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia are considering a broad review of potential conflicts of interest among stockbrokers and investment dealers who promote penny stocks. The regulators are investigating the recent crash in shares of GenEnergy Resources Corp. of Vancouver, which resulted in an estimated loss of \$800 million in shareholders' equity.

SETTLEMENT REACHED

General Motors Corp. reached a settlement in a class-action suit brought by owners of pickup trucks with undetonated fuel tanks, which allegedly are prone to fiery explosions in side collisions. GM repurchased the tanks in 1998, but insists that the older trucks are still safe. The company says it will offer about five million truck owners certificates worth \$1,000 towards the purchase of new GM vehicles. It will also budget \$2.5 million for research into safer fuel systems.



Looking for work in Toronto: a sudden jump in unemployment

Hopes dim for the jobless

The national unemployment rate experienced its biggest monthly surge in 16 years, rising to 10 per cent in June from May's level of 9.4 per cent. Statistics Canada said that Quebec accounted for three-quarters of the increase: the province lost 41,000 jobs last month and now has a jobless rate of 13.8 per cent. The U.S. unemployment rate, in contrast, is heading in the opposite direction, falling in June to 5.3 per cent, its lowest level

in six years. It was the sixth straight monthly gain for new jobs in the United States. Indeed, the tight pace of U.S. job creation this year has convinced many analysts that the economy there is in danger of overheating, forcing interest rates to rise. In Canada, some economists said that the jump in unemployment underscores the need for lower borrowing costs to stimulate spending and investment. But most analysts remain bullish on the economic outlook. *Canada's Economics Inc.*, a

Formula fight

Canada's largest maker of baby formula, Glaxo, has cut its infant formula in a move to protect its market share. Montreal-based Abbott Laboratories Ltd. is distributing pamphlets in hospitals and stores that say that the new product, Similac Advance, helps to strengthen babies' immune systems and offers benefits "previously associated only with breast milk." Abbott stands by the claims, but Glaxo calls them "false and misleading," and wants to sue its competitor's distributor to sue them in promotional materials. For the past few years, 1st of Canada's formula companies, including Abbott, have agreed not to advertise at mothers because of a global campaign by the World Health Organization to promote breastfeeding in the last form of nutrition for babies.

A 'murky' software deal

Ottawa-based software king Michael Compton wants to know why the federal government agreed to buy \$8.5-million worth of word-processing software from its larger U.S. rival, Microsoft Corp. Compton's Corel Corp. obtained the highly competitive word-processing market in March by purchasing the rights to WordPerfect, a once ubiquitous program that, in the past few years, has fallen behind Microsoft's Word. Corel spokeswoman Fiona Rochester said the government's recent decision to purchase copies of Word for 90,000 national defence department employees would not seriously hurt the Canadian company. But she added that Corel plans an appeal to the Canadian International Trade Tribunal because there was something "a little murky" about the deal. An aide to Public Works Minister Doug Young, whose department placed the order, said WordPerfect was passed over because it was not compatible with certain Defence files, even though the department currently uses the software.

Compton, passed over for an \$8.5-million contract



Four more years?

Boris Yeltsin engineered a comeback and was bludgeoned by Communists last August. Now, the rest of the world can stop worrying about Russia sinking back into the past and restarting the Cold War. That's the shorthand message from Yeltsin's convincing 54-percent edge-point victory over Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov in the runoff stage of the Russian presidential election last week. But the fears of the world should perhaps not be put to rest just yet. Between Yeltsin's troubled health and a mountain of problems facing him, there is plenty that can go wrong even as things seem to be going right.

It was, to be sure, a result based on hope. Yeltsin picked up 54 per cent of the votes cast to Zyuganov's 46 per cent share because of the conditional support of people like Yelena Gritshina. She is 72 and stout, with neat bright orange hair and a slight limp from an injury she suffered while serving as a Red Army tank driver during the Second World War. With Sasha, an elderly cousin, her son, in law, she set off last week to a polling station in a south Moscow district. There, she did something at which Russians excel—making sacrifices for the future. Inside a polling station set up in a secondary school, she added her pro-Yeltsin vote to those of her daughter and two university-age grandchildren. "I look like Yeltsin's economic reforms," said the former veterinarian. "Look at the hardship they have caused. Many people try to live on bread and milk because that's all they can afford. But my grandchildren don't want to go back to communism and I am happy that they at least will have a normal, civilized life. It's natural for the old to make way for the young, and I will be dead soon."

Millions of other Russians made a similar decision on July 3, giving Yeltsin a four-year term to lead them into the 21st century. The election itself was no small accomplishment. It took place largely without incident, concluding with the graceful, if slightly delayed, coronation of Zyuganov one day later. True, it was not a landmark example of democracy in action. With an open checkbook to government resources, Yeltsin openly bribed and made extravagant promises during an over-the-top campaign that took him to 23 different regions of Russia.

Zyuganov's main sure point, the media, particularly state-controlled television, were openly biased against him. Possible coverage of the president was balanced by almost 4 stories on Zyuganov that presented him as a latter-day version of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. De-

Yeltsin outmaneuvers Russians after the vote, Communist supporters (below) a result based on hope



The doubts linger about Yeltsin's poor health and his mountain of problems

spite with well-founded complaints, Zyuganov congratulated Yeltsin and promised to lead a loyal opposition in the Communist-dominated State Duma, the lower house of parliament. In the meantime, he urged Yeltsin not to forget the 30 million citizens who had voted against him, many of them poor peasants in the so-called Red



ON ASSIGNMENT: MALCOLM GRAY IN MOSCOW

belt of pro-Soviet territory that runs along Russia's southern border. Yeltsin's Red-baiting campaign was simple, effective and repetitive: while in the Communists would bring back empty state shelves and reversed social coalitions of private property (right down to the prized dacha, a country cottage), if not civil war. A report on election coverage released by close vets from the European Institute for the Media concluded that a 21-minute television report featuring Yeltsin over Zyuganov had given the president a huge advantage. And with an election-day broadcast on state televi-

sion of the three-hour conclusion to a six-hour soap opera, many voters found it easy to heed TV assurances, media urging them to show up the odds to vote in the vast workweek (polling usually takes place on a Sunday) instead of heading for the dacha. The Yeltsin forces' biggest fear had been a low turnout, which would have favored the well-organized Communists. With the crowds focused on the east, Yeltsin's camp for the past five years versus 70 years of Communist rule, most Russians would have favored the well-organized Communists. With the crowds focused on the east, Yeltsin's camp for the past five years versus 70 years of Communist rule, most Russians

Yeltsin	53.7%
Zyuganov	46.3%
Against both	4.9%
Turnout	61.2%

that answer. Without breaking the budget, it is hard to see where the money will come from to pay for \$55 billion worth of election promises that Yeltsin made to cushion the impact of reforms. They range from assurances that state employees such as teachers and civil servants will get paid on time to increased pensions and compensation for veterans mowed by infection. There they are: the city graced plighted to curb the nation's rising and increasingly violent crime and the delicate issue of setting a bloody chapter in the socioeconomic region of Chechnya. But even as Yeltsin promises his lease on the Kremlin for a second and final term, Russia's rumor mills are buzzing with the interrelated issues of his health and who will succeed him. Will it be his heir apparent at the moment, former army general Alexander Lebed? Or a more seasoned politician like Yuri Lashkov, Moscow's tough and popular mayor?

At 65, Yeltsin is already living on borrowed time: the average life expectancy for Russian males has dropped to only 64 years. During the past year, he has suffered two mild heart attacks and been in hospital for 10 weeks. In the grueling first round of the election campaign, Yeltsin sang and danced his way across the country, clearly trying to demonstrate at rock concerts and rallies that he still had the vigor needed to run Russia. Then in the two-week interval before the runoff, he almost disappeared

VAST VICTORY

President Boris Yeltsin won a majority of votes in most parts of Russia (in blue). Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov did well mainly in the so-called Red Belt of depressed Soviet-era industrial areas and outlying far-flung areas in the south. Many voters, however, chose a third option on the ballot: neither of the above.



In his absence, the storm surge and impressively low voice of Lebed dominated the run-up to the election. The third-place finisher in an initial field of 19 presidential candidates made the most of his switch to Yeltsin's team and a markedly defined job as the president's chief of national security. That position, the 46-year-old former general argued, gave him the right to do more than carry out campaign promises to fight crime and corruption. Instead, on the day of an on-air news conference, Lebed was audaciously declaring on nation singing from how to stop the illegal flight of capital from the country to why criminals who do not agree to go straight should be shot. Said Lebed: "We'll shoot people, but reasonably—and only those who refuse to be persuaded. He who shoots first, laughs last. I'm in favor of hard but thoughtful solutions. You need to hit twice: once on the head and the second time on the tip of the coffin."

In blunt, barracks-talk that strikes a chord with many Russians, Lebed also called for restrictions on foreign religious sects operating in Russia. He specifically listed two very different groups whose following is growing in Russia—Japan's sinister Aum Shinri Kyō sect, accused of carrying out a poisonous attack on the Tokyo subway that killed 11 people, and the Christian Church of Christ, Lebed, who has never been outside his native country except for combat tours in Afghanistan, dismissed them both as subversive "mold and rot." He also described Russia as "the most sinful country in the world," with Russian Orthodox, Islam and Buddhism as established religions. Notably absent, in a country with a long history of anti-Semitism, was any mention of Judaism.

At times, it almost seemed as if Lebed had taken over, conspiring the sabbat Yeltsin to be a sort of president emeritus. Lebed even acknowledged his own boundless ambition by saying that he had never been satisfied with any job he had held. "I always want more," he said. He soon clarified what that meant: now he wanted to be vice-president in the incoming administration. "This post is really needed," he said in a television interview. "A person is needed who would have strong powers to make political and even military decisions." There is one controversial problem with that suggestion, however. When a Russian-wide referendum in 1993 adopted a constitution that vested practically all powers in the presidency, Yeltsin made sure that the charter no longer included the position of vice president. Two months earlier, Alexander Lukashin, the man whom Yeltsin had picked as his vice president, had sided with parliamentary

from public view. As the sword-swinging statesman said his health as the list of cancelled appearances mounted. The president was well and working at his desk, they said. By one account, he had his mouth, by another he had his tongue, in a slight cold. Privately, though, members of his inner circle revealed that Yeltsin had experienced chest and arm pains brought on by angina. That is a well-documented heart condition where constriction of arteries reduces blood flow to the heart. Still, the state of Yeltsin's health was not an issue in the election. The ex-loyal Russian media said little about it.

In his absence, the storm surge and impressively low voice of Lebed dominated the run-up to the election. The third-place finisher in an initial field of 19 presidential candidates made the most of his switch to Yeltsin's team and a markedly defined job as the president's chief of national security. That position, the 46-year-old former general argued, gave him the right to do more than carry out campaign promises to fight crime and corruption. Instead, on the day of an on-air news conference, Lebed was audaciously declaring on nation singing from how to stop the illegal flight of capital from the country to why criminals who do not agree to go straight should be shot. Said Lebed: "We'll shoot people, but reasonably—and only those who refuse to be persuaded. He who shoots first, laughs last. I'm in favor of hard but thoughtful solutions. You need to hit twice: once on the head and the second time on the tip of the coffin."

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depicted in a power struggle with the president. That unbridled rebellion ended only when Yeltsin ordered tanks to shell the legislative building. Like Lebed, Rutskoy was a spitfire politician and a hero of the Soviet Union's disastrous military intervention in Afghanistan. And he is skeptical about his successor's ability to control the unruly Yeltsin's court. Said Rutskoy in a low-key opposition address: "We'll fight neither crime nor corruption, but we won't carry out army reform either. We have done that road and I know very well the work of the Kremlin kitchen."

Moreover, reviving the vice-presidency would be complex and lengthy. It would require an amendment to the constitution approved by both houses of parliament and ratified by two-thirds of Russia's 89 regions. As things stand now, the prime minister temporarily takes over if the president dies or is incapacitated. According to a constitution that has never been tested on such a crucial issue of power, he is then obliged to hold new presidential elections within three months.

Once it became apparent last week that Lebed's supporters had contributed to Yeltsin's victory margin, it also became clear that the former general will soon have to struggle for survival in the labyrinth of the Kremlin. Yeltsin, a leader who routinely divides power among his advisers, recognizes the immediate cogitation of an government following the elections—and swiftly reappointed Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. His first task, keeping a new cabinet, Chernomyrdin, himself a graft-farmer Soviet energy bureaucrat with strong ties to



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Russia's influential gas monopoly, began by promptly pouring cold water over Lebed's plan to revive the vice-presidency at his expense. Still Chernomyrdin: "I am not going to give anything away to anyone. My powers are well-known and I don't plan to part with any of them." Chernomyrdin suggested that Lebed concentrate on crime-fighting and lower economic matters in line. "As far as security and law and order are concerned," he added dryly, "there is enough work for everyone."

There is certainly enough work—and potential problems—abound to occupy the time and energy of a completely healthy Yeltsin. The bill for unpaid wages to state workers is mounting again, government tax collections are below target, and fulfilling even part of Yeltsin's generous election promise would flood the treasury with cash. In the hands of Yeltsin's advisers, the prospect of NATO's expansion could produce another East-West rift—although Russian officials have said privately that they can live with Poland and other former Soviet satellites becoming members of the Western military alliance. They add, however, that the new members must not have nuclear weapons stationed on their soil and posted in Moscow's direction.

Despite the orderly atmosphere of the election itself, Russia's fragile new democracy is a strange blend of developing democratic institutions and power concentrated in a single individual. So if Yeltsin's health worsens, all bets on Russia's true future will be off. The new mandate that he received in last week's voting would be as deep as in a monumental Kremlin struggle over his job. □

The mayor who would be king

NO need to ask Moscowites to describe their city's mayor. For the past seven weeks, Yan Luzhkov's moon face and pear-shaped body have been visible in thousands of pro-life billboards and posters. Little-known in the West, he is one of Russia's best-known and most powerful politicians. Many now hail at a presidential successor to the president, along with new national security czar Alexander Lebed. Certainly it was Yeltsin who cashed in on the mayor's popularity in the ads, but not for both men's reelection campaigns. Without making a single campaign speech or running a political ad of his own, Luzhkov won a record four-year term on June 16 with a Soviet-style result of 91 per cent of the vote.

No one questioned that total. The 55-year-old Moscow native is immensely popular with the city's 10 million residents for his populist policies. A former Soviet bureaucrat who ran the capital's food distribution system, he has instituted price controls on milk, bread and other basic foods, and cut 5,000 law-enforcement policemen on the streets to help police cope with rising crime. Usually, Luzhkov has been a loyal supporter of Boris Yeltsin. But the president's aides were restless nervous early last year as Luzhkov first considered, then eventually rejected, entering the presidential race as a reformist's reformer's reformer.

Since then, Luzhkov has concentrated on doing what he does well: ensuring that the city administration gets a good slice of the money generated by Moscow's position as Russia's financial as

well as political capital. Like Yeltsin, the retired mayor is a communist die-hard at best. He prefers to rule by executive order, all but to manage a weak city council that can do little to oppose his wishes. Most Moscowites don't read those autocratic ways. They like him. They love to create such new city landmarks as a huge Second World War memorial and the reconstruction of the 19th-century Cathedral of Christ the Saviour that dictator Josef Stalin tore down in 1931.

In addition, Moscow's leading populist expects all the pomp and ceremony due to the ruler of a new-independent city-state. To that end, he has won such signs of special status as forcing the federal government to get his permission before printing large local monies. And in a fit of fit for a man whose aides bear such grand titles as prime minister and deputy prime minister, Luzhkov even permits his own foreign police. Two years ago, when Yeltsin was seeking entanglement as protracted negotiations with Ukraine to divide the Southern Black Sea fleet, Luzhkov traveled to the port of Sevastopol and promised to build housing for the sailors.

For the moment, Luzhkov has worked hard to keep Yeltsin in power. Disappointed by a low early turnout in last week's presidential race, he made a successful TV appeal to city residents to get out and vote. But if Yeltsin's poor health created an opportunity, Luzhkov would likely enter the contest for power from the mayor's standpoint, it is a short distance down Thursday Street from city hall to the Kremlin.

M.G.

The drive to oust Karadzic

The Bosnian Serb leader gives up his title—but little else

P ERHAPS it is his timing as a politician, not his own ability to do much with the words of his lies. The international officials struggling to implement the Dayton peace agreement desperately want the Bosnia-based Karadzic out as president of the Bosnian Serb republic, the multi-ethnic but and his followers carved out of Bosnia during a 3 1/2-year war of ethnic cleansing. They would also like to drag him off to The Hague, and the empty chairman's chair sitting him at the courtroom where a tribunal has heard antigovernment allegations of war crimes against him. But Karadzic, 51, shows no signs of leaving the safety of the protection guard that protects him in Pale, the old village outside Sarajevo that has become his political bunker. And the demand that he leave after and never run again seemed for months with his painted blind of waving, taunts and obscenity.

Last month, after foreign governments shook the prospect of economic sanctions in his face, Karadzic relented. He would hand over his powers as president—but keep the title. The international community, which has been a chronic inability to deal collectively with Bosnian Serb leaders, agreed at first, then decided the offer was not good enough. "He's holding us around by the nose," said one Western diplomat. So more pressure was brought, and Karadzic finally agreed to surrender the title, too. Now, he voluntarily resigned, would be run in national elections scheduled for Sept. 14. Only one caveat he would hang in his job as head of the wartime Serb Democratic Party, which allows him to choose the candidates who do run.

It is a cave now but not likely to meet the Dayton agreement's requirement that ousted war criminals stay out of politics. "We never believed that he was going to stay as a candidate against Mike Mladic," spokesman for Carl Bildt, the key Swedish peace mediator overseeing attempts under the accord to test Bosnia's return to a juster state. "We went from out of political life and into The Hague. This is just a first step." It'd be a baby step at best, and it was not enough to satisfy The Hague. There, prosecutors have a list of charges against Karadzic and his top military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic.



The alleged war criminal in Pale last week: release of evil

that is a relic of evil, genocide, religious persecution and atrocities against civilians, including torture, rape and shelling; and using UN peacekeepers as hostages.

The obstacle to prosecution remains the weak UN-led Implementation Force (IFOR), which is barely swelling to pursue and arrest the well-guarded Karadzic. It fears that such a mission could end in bloody failure, or that apprehending Karadzic and the still-flying popular Mladic could spark a violent backlash against IFOR troops by Bosnian Serbs. "Arresting Mladic would be disastrous for the IFOR mission," said a Belgrade-based Western diplomat. That line doesn't mesh with the war crimes tribunal. Chief prosecutor Richard Goldstone of South Africa has complained first IFOR's position constitutes a morally significant part of impunity. And the tribunal's president, Italian Judge Antonio Cassese, recently protested to the UN Security Council that Mladic had visited Belgrade in May for a funeral and left again, unharmed, by airplane to return to The Hague. There, prosecutors continued their campaign to embarrass IFOR into sending out a peace to bring in

Karadzic and Mladic. Over six days, the court heard tapes of Karadzic's private remarks to the Bosnian government that its plans to break away from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would lead "into hell" — and lead the Muslim people into an "inferno." Judges heard state-of-the-art testimony of torture and exorcism during the Bosnian Serb army's overman of the UN-protected Muslim town of Srebrenica last summer, which placed Mladic at the scene. And Canadian Capt. Patrick Bechara coolly described his capture by Bosnian Serb forces, who threatened to kill him while he was chained to an ammunition dump as a human shield against NATO airstrikes in May 1995. The only money from Vancouver-born Bechara clearly connected to Karadzic aside is his three-week ordeal.

But such as Western leaders want to see Karadzic and Mladic in the dock, few have any idea how they might get them. It shows that their removal from Bosnia would have much impact on prospects for lasting peace. "The real problem is the Serbian style of the Bosnian Serb state and its culture of fear," said one European official in Sarajevo last week. "Karadzic should go, but that won't solve the problems here."

Electoral hell last week in Mostar, a city divided between Muslims and Croats, underscored how deep-seated ethnic mistrust has become: hardliners from both sides were elected, moderate parties got just three per cent of the vote. "The same groups who brought us the war were elected again," said one Western diplomat. "You can have freedom of the press, but I don't see how these people will change their minds. They will wait for those who can deliver arrest." Indeed, option is divided on what would happen if Karadzic were arrested. Many observers believe that a demonstration of international toughness against the war-mongers would encourage more moderate politicians. Others warn that his arrest would only feed the Bosnian Serb sense of isolation and paranoia. But since nobody knows exactly who would happen, offered Mladic from Sarajevo often, "perhaps it would be best just to do what's right."

BRUCE WALLACE in London



WORLD ISRAEL

For Netanyahu, even the nanny is a critic

Barely three weeks after he was sworn in as Israel's first directly elected prime minister, Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu is paying for his delusions of grandeur: His authority is being challenged, his competence questioned. Most wounding of all for an ambitious man who takes himself extremely seriously, people are laughing at the 46-year-old former diplomat. "Like any young, inexperienced leader, he's listening with the Prime Minister last week." "He has moved out of the fantasy land of opposition into the reality land of government."

David Levy, Netanyahu's foreign minister and archrival, has once humiliated the new prime minister in front of television cameras and pressured him to create a new ministry for controversial former defense minister Ariel Sharon, who was left out of the cabinet. Netanyahu's wife, Sara, 38, an ex-hitsite, student with a degree in child psychology, has made him a national punchline by firing the family's nanny because she burned the soup. Last week, Netanyahu had to contend with reports that a U.S. security check showed his old American social security number listed four different names—a development that his spokesman put down to an American bureaucratic error. Days earlier, Netanyahu's own Likud party MPs voted his candidate for parliamentary speaker.

Netanyahu had projected himself as the equivalent of an American president, who

owned his position to the people rather than to party or parliament. He would, he boasted, build a "cabinet of excellence" that would deliver "peace with security" and open up the economy to the magic of the market. Like a Jacqueline Kennedy or a Hillary Clinton, Sara Netanyahu, his third wife, would be the First Lady, with an office and a secretary. Then two sons, Yair, 5, and Avner, 10, would complete the First Family, twinning with the Prime Minister this week on his first official visit to Washington.

But along with an American-style approach to leadership came an American-style media buzz. "Netanyahu," as the household scandal has lovingly been dubbed, portrays Sara as arrogant, untidy and obsessed with hygiene.

"Bibi's kids, his wife, his house before he touches the kids," revealed 25-year-old Tanya Shale, the South African-born nanny. "Yair likes to take a shower when he comes home from kindergarten, eat, then sit on the sofa till bedtime so that he won't get dirty." At another nanny, who stayed for only a week two years ago, remembered Shale's portrait of Sara: "She had a rule that you had to wash your hands before going into each room. If a blanket fell on the floor, it had to be washed because it was unclean," said 23-year-old Branka Abramson. Heidi Ben-Bar, Branka's First Lady: "I help a clean house,

but everything else is nonsense." Now, no talk show is complete without a gag about Sara's. The Netanyahu made things worse for themselves by labeling Shale as mentally unstable and a security risk. Said political scientist Wolfeld: "Bibi wanted to be presidential and show off his family. He thought the press would simply get publicity photos. But the moment you bring your family into the foreground, you have to be prepared for scrutiny and criticism."

The trouble, as Netanyahu has learned swiftly and painfully, is that although he is directly elected, he does not have the clout of an American president. "Bibi," David Levy snickered, "is not the emperor. He is not the only man in the house." In the last Likud government, their roles were reversed. Levy was foreign minister and Netanyahu his deputy. The American-educated Netanyahu persistently upstaged his boss, a Moroccan-born concentration marker who speaks little English. Last week, Levy was gleefully setting scores, threatening to resign if Sharon was not given a ministry by the time Netanyahu left for the United States. Sharon helped cause Netanyahu's election by persuading Levy to stay out of the race.

Netanyahu would probably have been more comfortable without Sharon, who dragged Israel into the unhappy 1982 Lebanese invasion and, later, as housing minister, built thousands of homes on controversial settlements in the West Bank. But since Likud was only a minority of seats, Netanyahu must still rule by coalition. Levi Levy, all of Netanyahu's partners have insisted on a share of the spoils. Weeks of wrangling must leave a legacy that leaves Netanyahu as he tries to push the peace process forward. "There is a lot of bitterness in his own party," said Wolfeld. "In the future, he will have to pay for that. When he's down, people will kick him."

Yoel Marcus, a leading political commentator, wrote in the influential daily *Ma'ariv*: "It is already evident that Netanyahu is a different prime minister from any we have known before. A premise is not a promise, a word given but not a value. There is no god other than his success."

Disoriented Likud MPs are now testing their strength in a hybrid political system that is as new to them as it is to the presidential prime minister. The battle—going anything from cabinet posts to ministries—is only beginning.

ERIC SCHWARTZ in Jerusalem

World NOTES

IN THE DARK

A series of blackouts that stretched across 15 western U.S. states cut power to an array of two million homes and businesses, causing commuter havoc, slowing air conditioners and dumping airports and railways. The electrical outages spread from Southern California to Texas and north to British Columbia, which was slightly affected. Officials said the cause was a short circuit on one power line between Wyoming and Idaho.

A TAMIL TIGER BOMB

A female Tamil Tiger suicide bomber killed at least 21 soldiers and civilians and wounded 93 others in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna city. Hauling Minister Nimal Sena de Silva, in charge of a \$172-million reconstruction plan for the north, sustained minor wounds. De Silva said the government would continue with its plans for Jaffna, where it recently regained control after years of civil war.

ACQUITTAL IN BELGIUM

A Belgian colonial soldier is acquitted in Belgium for the 1994 killing of 10 ethnic Belgian commandos. A Belgian military court found insufficient evidence to show Col. Luc Marchal could have anticipated the murder by Hells Brigade when he dispatched the Belgians to accompany the Tutsi prime minister in response to an order by Hutu extremists. The United Nations blocked Belgium from leading.

JUSTICE DELAYED

Three black Chicago men were released after serving 15 years in prison for a double murder they did not commit. One of the men spent most of the time in an art studio. He did a book of the friends before his release last month. New DNA testing and a jailhouse confession by another man negated the case.

RETURNING THE STONE

British Prime Minister John Major said the Stone of Scone, a treasured symbol of Scottish nationalism, would be returned to Scotland after 700 years in England. The 100-kilogram stone, kept at Westminster Abbey, was used as the anvil used on which the kings of Scotland were crowned until it was handed off as English war booty in 1296.



DEALING ON DIVORCE:

The Princess of Wales spent the weekend considering a divorce settlement after her estranged husband Prince Charles after more than two months of deadlock. Details were private, but it was widely reported that Diana, 35, was looking at a lump sum of about \$44 million, conditional on equal access to their two children, Prince Harry and Prince William. There was also speculation that Charles, 47, would pay \$1.2 million a year for Diana's child support. After settlement with likely include a "gagging clause" restraining the couple from writing books about their failed relationship.

Diana in London last week—\$44 million and a "gagging clause"

A militia charged with terror

Thirteen members of a Phoenix, Arizona, paramilitary group, known as the Viper Militia, were charged with plotting to blow up federal buildings and a local television station. The arrests follow the discovery and arrest of similar groups in Georgia and Ohio earlier this year and heighten fears that last year's Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168 people, was not an isolated incident. "Terrorism has come to the United States," said John Maguire, director of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. But Maguire said there was no direct link between the Vipers and the men charged in the Oklahoma bombing. "A lot of them [initially] think after. But there is

no national conspiracy here yet that we can see." Viper members believe a far-right-dominated world government is about to take over the United States and impose a dictatorship, he said.

During a six-month investigation, an undercover agent infiltrated the militia, warning members threats to murder any witnesses. Police seized 79 automatic weapons, 380 kg of ammonium nitrate—the same chemical used in the Oklahoma bombing—and periodic acid, an ingredient used in Second World War grenades that have been used since 1967. They also found a training video explaining how to "collapse" buildings that house the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies.

Southern China under water

The worst flooding in more than half a century spread devastation across much of southern China. By week's end, the raging waters had taken nearly 250 lives and affected up to 12 million people. Officials released damage at nearly \$3 billion in the four stricken provinces of Guizhou, Zhejiang, Anhui and Jiangsu. Many areas face a bleak harvest as newly planted rice and corn seedlings were washed away. Tens of thousands of people were homeless after their houses collapsed. One million were stranded. "In one village you can only tell the buildings from a few trees floating on the water," said a local official. Chinese officials made no formal appeal for international aid, but said help would be welcome.

BY MARK NICHOLS

According to the careful record he keeps, Jim Wakeford has lost 239 "friends, lovers and acquaintances" to AIDS since 1984. For the past three years, Wakeford, 51, has been battling the symptoms of his own case of AIDS, which include an alarming downward spiral in the number of vital T4 cells in his blood. In a healthy person, there are usually 1,000 or more of the cells—a critical component of the body's immune system—per cubic centimetre of blood. Two years ago, Wakeford's count was about 90. But since he began taking two new drugs five months ago, his T4 count has risen to 350. The drugs that seem to be making the difference are known as protease (pronounced PRO-tease) inhibitors—a family of powerful new combatants in the war against AIDS. Taken with other drugs in a kind of pharmaceutical "cocktail," they have produced spectacular improvement in some patients. Murky data first released at the eleventh International Conference on AIDS taking place in Vancouver this week is hailed as an occasion for more optimism than at almost any time since the AIDS epidemic began 15 years ago.

Participants were looking forward to more on controversial news at the hundreds of scientists from around the world gathered to report their latest findings. Said Dr Michael Robert, an infectious disease expert who is chief of the B.C. health ministry's AIDS control program and one of the conference's four co-chairmen: "There is a reasonable hope now that we will be able to cure this disease someday." The weekly conference, held under the auspices of the Stockholm-based International AIDS Society, brings together more than 15,000 researchers, doctors and support workers, and about 1,500 journalists. And apart from the exchange of information, it provides the potential for political fireworks from a conference well-known for its ability to speak up for itself. Canadian AIDS activists, for example, saw Barrie as Prime Minister Jean Chretien for declining an invitation to open the conference—the visit Health Minister David Dingwall missed. They are even angrier over Ottawa's plan to wind up its successful, six-million-dollar National AIDS Strategy in March, 1996. Dr Martin Schacter, director of the Vancouver-based Canadian HIV Trials Network and another conference co-chairman, called the decision "bad social policy and worse economic policy. It's inconceivable."

The Vancouver meeting is taking place in the shadow of a grim anniversary: 10 years have passed since U.S. health authorities, in June, 1981, first officially reported a rare type of pneumonia

A 'cocktail' treatment of several drugs offers hope

among gay men. Since then, the disease that in 1982 came to be known as acquired immune deficiency syndrome has exploded into an epidemic that has killed more than 4.5 million people around the world and is currently making its deadliest inroads in the developing nations of Africa and Asia. In Canada, despite evidence that the epidemic has levelled off from the high rates of infection during the mid-1980s, AIDS still kills at an alarming rate. It has claimed the lives of about 10,000 Canadians, the majority of them homosexual and bisexual men, and is the leading cause of death among men between the ages of 25 and 44 in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

Now, even as the overall infection level drops, the disease is taking a more toll among injection drug users, young gay men, women and native Canadians (page 43). Jeff Dooley, who runs the Vancouver organization AIDS Solutions, says that in his part of the country "the epidemic is still growing. We're seeing a steady increase every year in the number of new cases."

Paradoxically, the disease that has killed thousands of homosexual and bisexual men has also helped to strengthen the cohesion and visibility of the gay movement, which mobilized to protect its own interests. That, in turn, has contributed to the achievement of greater legal recognition, including health care and other employment benefits for same-sex couples and increased protection against discrimination. At the same time, the gay community has suffered continuously. "The gains we made in terms of social tolerance for gays," says Russell Armstrong, executive director of the Ottawa-based Canadian AIDS Society, "have been at a cost that is beyond words."

Kaposi's sarcoma, a powerful stigma that still clings to a disease that, as North America, is most frequently transmitted through homosexual contact. The means of transmission is through the exchange of secret or blood—meaning that unprotected sex or needle sharing by drug users are high-risk activities. Until recently, researchers believed that oral sex was probably safe. Then in May, scientists in Boston warned the virus could probably be transmitted orally after all:



The AZV, 3TC and two new protease inhibitors at the core of Wakeford's drug regimen show patients report spectacular improvement

when technicians put droplets of a virus resembling HIV—the one associated with AIDS—on monkeys' mouths, the animals became ill.

Beyond the established causes, misunderstanding and paranoia abound. Although there is absolutely no evidence of AIDS being transmitted by touch or through the air—from talking, coughing or sneezing, for instance—many health workers still take extraordinary and according to AIDS walkers, demeaning precautions "to avoid Nova Scotia hospitals," said Jean MacQueen, executive director of the Sydney, N.S.-based AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton. "If you're HIV-positive, you still get nurses coming into the room wearing gloves and masks." Similarly, since the AIDS epidemic began, doctors and their assistants throughout North America have donned gloves and masks even for routine examinations.

One confirmed method of transmission has been blood and blood products used in transfusions. Until the Canadian Red Cross Society began screening for HIV in donated blood in 1985 and tightened its procedures, as estimated 1,300 Canadian hemophiliacs and other recipients of blood and blood products contracted

AIDS. An inquiry under Justice Harcourt Kerrier of the Ontario Court of Appeal wound up hearings into the tainted blood tragedy in December. But Kerrier's final report, due in September, will come too late for the many infected by tainted blood and blood products who have already died of AIDS.

New, improved drugs—and promising combinations of drugs—are beginning to restore a measure of health and hope to thousands of AIDS patients. Ten years in development, the new class of drugs called protease inhibitors are producing impressive results. U.S. doctors who use them along with other drugs to treat some HIV-positive patients at an early stage report that within months they can detect no trace of HIV in the patient's blood. In other cases, notes Robert, some patients with full-blown AIDS who were tested by combination drug therapy built around protease inhibitors "have literally been brought back from the point of death." Although three of the new protease inhibitors have been approved in the United States, only one—Heptamethine Roche's zalcitabine (brand name: Vivid)—has so far been approved for

Wakeford's case for some optimism as 15,000 people gather for an international AIDS conference in Vancouver

Fewer infections are being reported, but the risk is rising among women and intravenous drug users

When more than 8,000 Canadians were being infected annually. At the same time, the average age of infection in Canada fell from 35 to 32 in the early years of the epidemic, and the infection rate is rising rapidly among intravenous drug users—and among women, many of whom are acquiring HIV from sexual partners who inject drugs.

That drug connections, say experts, represents an increased threat to the general population—because people who are high on drugs, in poor health or living on the streets are unlikely to practice safe sex. "There is a lot of fear," says David Thompson, executive director of AIDS Community Network, "that injection drug users are the bridge to the heterosexual community."

Meanwhile, AIDS victims face challenges on the financial front as they struggle to pay for the drugs that may save their lives. Patients who are also protease inhibitor in combination with two, and sometimes three, other anti-AIDS drugs can face outlays of more than \$14,000 a year. Many private drug plans do not cover the costly new drugs—and the amount of financial help offered by the province varies widely. Saskatchewan covers all major drug costs for AIDS patients. Both Alberta and New Brunswick cover the cost of some AIDS medications—but neither helps pay for protease inhibitors. In Quebec and Quebec, AIDS drugs are covered under various provincial health plans. That in Ontario, a delay in processing applications has left some AIDS patients frustrated and angry. Says Woodcock: "This is a mess, most provinces right now."

Diagnosis devoted to helping people with HIV or AIDS and funding the medical research into the disease have other financial concerns. Health Minister David Dingwall's predecessor, Diane Markey, decided during her period in office that the federal government would wind up the National AIDS Strategy when its current five-year phase ends in March.



Working on AIDS and for the art exhibit: revealing the public

A dialogue in Vancouver

A word of advice to the anguished traveler: this is a good week to avoid Vancouver. With 15,000 physicians, activists, health officials and AIDS patients—not to mention assorted family members and travelling companions—expected to descend on the city for the eleventh International Conference on AIDS, the chances of finding a spare room range from slim to non-existent. By late last week, Vancouver tourism official Janice Ross conceded that any accommodation left unoccupied was "either going to very, very nice and very, very expensive." Conference organizers, meanwhile, were belitting participants as far away as Billingsville, Wash., 50 km south of Vancouver, and the resort town of Whistler, 96 km north. But if rumors are correct, there is hardly an issue related to AIDS that is not up for discussion, on display or frankly in the face of Vancouverites.

The largest conference ever held in Vancouver, in fact, has acted as a catalyst for a multitude of related events, from the purely commercial to the outspokenly controversial. At the same time, both local author-

ities and organizers of the two-day gathering were largely for the possibility that at least some participants would be more interested in confrontation than communication. "We have intelligence officers out there in the bars, restaurants and clubs," and police spokesperson Constable Anne Drexler, "is timing for anything that might indicate something is afoot." For their part, conference planners set aside time during the July 7 opening ceremonies to accommodate interruptions by demonstrators—seen to the extent of allowing them 15 minutes at the podium microphone. Making the depth of emotion that surrounds the conference subject, Rick Marchand, executive director of AIDS Vancouver, the country's longest-standing advocacy group for people living with the disease, observed: "There are a lot of very, very angry Americans coming here. We hope their agenda doesn't dominate the whole conference."

If numbers counted for anything, radical activists like the Act Up troupe that planned to converge on Vancouver from Philadelphia and San Francisco seemed

likely to be overshadowed by those with more conciliatory messages. At least 50 corporations displayed various degrees of presence—from booths at a trade show of AIDS-related products to technical symposiums aimed at physicians. Other organizations, with an eye to the international media attending the event, planned to announce AIDS-related endeavors hanging from the back of a bus whose proceeds will go to AIDS research. To the unveiling of an ad campaign aimed at boosting support for more than 60 fund-raising AIDS walks to take place across Canada in late September.

A culture program sponsored by conference organizers, meanwhile, was intended to carry its message beyond the walls to Vancouver residents at large. A "festival" of AIDS-inspired films running from July 5 to 13 is screening documentaries, video portraits and dramatic features dealing with the disease, its victims and its killers. Two performances by Ballet British Columbia

2008. Under that \$20-million program, Ottawa currently directs \$17.5 million a year towards research and tracking the disease, \$8.6 million to AIDS organizations that provide educational and support services and \$1.9 million to research and other services. If the strategy is phased out, AIDS groups and medical researchers would have to apply on an individual basis for federal funding—and would likely receive less overall from a government intent on reducing its budget deficit.

Faced with fierce protests from researchers and AIDS activists, Ottawa is reviewing the cancellation. Dingwall, saddled with Markey's decision, is currently meeting with AIDS organizations and researchers to discuss future funding arrangements. He told Macdonald last week that when that process is complete—probably before the end of the year—"I will be in a position to see what we can do to extend the strategy, or determine some new way of extending assistance." That Dingwall also noted that the cancer trust was not involved in part by Dingwall's desire to put AIDS on the same footing as other major diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, is the competition for funding.

Activists maintain that despite the program's solid scientific underpinnings, AIDS research in Canada has already made less in per capita spending since the world's seven richest industrialized nations, and erode public support organizations in poorer provinces. Critics noted that when Christie attended the 1994 Paris AIDS summit with other world leaders, he pledged that fighting the disease would be a priority for his government. "Now," said Vancouver's Scheffler, "it's really time for this government to deliver on that promise." With successful treatment, it's not an outright cure, already in their sights, AIDS researchers see this as no time to abandon the fight. □

deal with the same theme, as does *Sex Is My Religion*, a provocative one-act play by Vancouver playwright Colin Thomas. At the suburban Robson Square Conference Centre beneath the Vancouver Art Gallery itself the role of an AIDS-related exhibit, a collection of paintings, posters, sculptures and other artworks, often the public still another venue into the emotions sparked by the deadly illness. Self-proclaimed Nancy Henderson: "We want it to be a bridge between the conference and the Vancouver public."

What the conference will leave behind in Vancouver is less certain. One clear positive impact will be more than \$30 million that participants were expected to spend during their stay. But some advocates expressed concern that the event may also exhaust the generosity of contributors to local AIDS-related charities. "Donors," warns Marchand, "may say, 'I gave to the conference. I've done my bit.'"

But there is already evidence of a more benign impact. An AIDS awareness program, developed by Marchand's organization to help prepare Vancouver police officers and hotel, restaurant and bar employees to deal more comfortably with visitors who may carry the disease, has proven so popular that both the police department and several hotels have asked AIDS Vancouver to contribute to the conference. In a city where AIDS has become the leading cause of males between 25 and 49, that more suggests the event will leave a lasting and positive impact, for locals and visitors alike.

CHRIS WOOD in Vancouver

BEHIND THE STATISTICS

The official numbers do not tell the whole story. As of January this year, Health Canada knew of just 176 AIDS cases among native Canadians. That amounts to less than two per cent of Canada's total reported cases, in a community making up 30 per cent of the population. But aboriginal people close to the AIDS scene say the numbers simply demonstrate Ottawa's inability to look on the true extent of the disease, often isolated native populations. In fact, they say, an incendiary combination of factors has put natives at an exceptionally high risk from AIDS. "It's an epidemic in this province," says Catherine Smith of the Canadian Native, a research assistant for the city's AIDS project.

"No native community has been spared the loss of at least one loved one." Conditions could hardly be more conducive to promoting the rapid spread of a disease transmitted mainly by unprotected sex and injection drug use.

• There is a disproportionate number of natives in the prison population (native inmates participate in such high-risk activities as injecting drugs, anal sex and barbiturate and in the sex trade before and after release). • Includes drug use and dangerous sexual practices.

• Band members returning home from urban centres introduce HIV to previously unexposed populations.

• Few native have doctors, and rarely life-line symptoms that may be the first signs of HIV infection go undetected and untreated. Considerable damage can result in tiny communities where promiscuity and drug use are rampant.

• Poor nutrition and malnutrition to infections put natives at greater immediate risk of death when they develop full-blown AIDS.

Meanwhile, the native community appears to be lagging behind mainstream society in coming to terms with AIDS and homosexuality awareness among natives. Says Mike,

"There's a lot of homophobia and denial," says David Albert, executive director of 2-Spirited People of the First Nations, a Toronto support group that serves its name from a traditional term for homosexuals.

"Two-spirited people were considered to be a gift from the creator within aboriginal culture prior to colonization and the influence of Christianity," he says. But attitudes have changed. Says Albert, HIV-positive since 1992, "As a two-spirited man and HIV-positive, I wouldn't be comfortable openly acknowledging that on a reserve."

Dorland McKay, an openly gay Sault Ste. Marie from Rolling Ridge, B.C., now working with the Manitoba AIDS Task Force in Winnipeg, knows those attitudes firsthand. "Three weeks ago, when my aunt died, I was going to go home to her funeral," he said last week. "My family stopped me and said not to."



McKay, native intolerance, official unawareness

go." McKay, who has been HIV positive since 1984, offers a stark explanation of his family's attitude: "Maybe it's because they don't want me to hear what people are saying behind my back," he suggests.

At the Bear's Den, a Native Indian reserve near Duck Lake, Sask., Flora Mike watched her son, Bobby Mike, die a painful death from AIDS four years ago at the age of 35. He had contracted AIDS in Vancouver, where he worked as an elementary schoolteacher and, more lately, an AIDS activist. His mother concedes attitudes that do nothing to enhance understanding and prevention of the disease. "She has travelled the country to promote safe sex, a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle and AIDS awareness among natives. Says Mike, "It's up to us as parents and grandparents to teach the children the right ways."

WARRIOR WRITING in Saskatoon

Backpack

HEALTHWATCH

ARTHRITIS ATTACK

BY DAN HAWALESHIKA

For a while, Davene Belyea's life was may like had a young family, she and her husband, Jay, had good jobs, and they had just moved into a new house in Saint John, N.B. Then in May 1989, the pain started. At first it was only Belyea's feet—they would swell and cramp. Sometimes, if she took off her shoes, she could not put them back on again. "I went to the doctor and he told me I was wearing cheap shoes," says Belyea, now 30. New shoes did not help. The fatigue followed. Sometimes her leg would go out. She thought it might be a pinched nerve. By September, she was in severe pain. Her hands were swelling and her doctors had no definitive answers. Finally in November, a blood test revealed that Belyea had rheumatoid arthritis, a chronic disorder in which the body's immune system attacks healthy cells in joints. "My whole life has changed in the past three years," she says. "It's been disastrous."

Arthritis is not for senior citizens alone. True, if people are 65 years old or over, their chances of getting arthritis are about 10 times higher than they are for someone Belyea's age. But in areas of sheer numbers, more than 60 per cent of Canadians with arthritis are under 65. In addition, fully 4.6 million Canadians of all ages are estimated to have one of the more than 100 forms of arthritis. And with each passing decade, another million will be added to the total. By the year 2005, almost one in five Canadians are expected to have some form of arthritis. And in the face of those disturbing numbers, researchers are struggling to find new and better treatments in the areas of anti-inflammatory drugs, gene therapy, ultraviolet light therapy and so-called smart drugs, which can target specific body chemicals.

The trend, says Dr. Edward Keystone, chief of rheumatology at Toronto's Wellesley Hospital, is to move treatment that acts with the precision of "smart bombs and guided missiles." We're chasing the smart of war here.

What is arthritis? The term covers a wide range of illnesses, including lupus, osteoarthritis, bursitis and gout. The cause of arthritis

is unclear, though some scientists think it may be linked to some as yet unidentified infectious agent. What is known is that it is an autoimmune disorder: the body's natural defence mechanisms—designed to ward off all kinds of bacteria, viruses and cancer—actually start attacking healthy parts of the body. This occurred on occasion, by the immune system can damage the protective lining of joints, leading to swelling, pain and bone destruction.

In the past, arthritis has been treated with drugs like Aspirin, Motrin and Naproxen. While these drugs continue to be used as a first-line defence, and have been proven to be beneficial in the treatment of virtually all forms of arthritis, they do not prevent the progression of the disease. They can also have undesirable side-effects. These drugs fall into a class known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs. But NSAIDs can be a double-edged sword: while their effectiveness against arthritis lies in their ability to block the activity of prostaglandins, which are chemicals linked to inflammation, prostaglandins are also a necessary part of the body, protecting, among other things, the stomach lining. As a result, the possible side-effects of NSAIDs include ulcers, which can, although rarely, result in death from internal bleeding.

But studies in rats by Dr. John Wallace at the University of Calgary, in conjunction with the University of Naples, have already led to experimental NSAIDs with

EASTERN ALTERNATIVES

Western medical research into arthritis may soon have competition from the burgeoning field of Eastern alternative medicine. In October, Dr. Wei Jui Tan, a pediatric professor at the University of British Columbia, will co-ordinate the opening of the TCM Institute for Alternative and Complementary Medicine, where researchers will apply Western analytical standards to the study of alternative medicines and treatments for diseases like arthritis, cancer and AIDS. The institute will be established with \$5 million donated by the TCM Chi Foundation, a

foundation, clearly, and will be affiliated with the Vancouver Hospital. Traditional Asian therapies for arthritis, such as acupuncture and Taijchi martial arts, are just two of the treatments being considered for in-depth study at the new institute. "The institute is trying to put together something credible that eventually will be introduced into mainstream health care," Tan says. "We hope to bring on some of the age-old therapies which are effective, properly controlled and standardized, rather than relying on so-called snake-oil salesmen."

When with
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movements

gastro side-effects. These new NSAIDs release nitric oxide, which stimulates blood flow and healing in the stomach. "Adding the nitric oxide doesn't interfere with the ability of the NSAIDs to block prostaglandins," Wallace says. Adds Keystone, who is also the national medical spokesperson for The Arthritis Society: "The word on the street is that it looks very promising." This fall will also mark the first major international trial for a new generation of NSAIDs that target only the prostaglandins in the joints.

Biochemistry may also lead to viable treatments for arthritis. Several researchers have noted that the joints of patients with as-

New research points to effective treatments

teritis produce more interleukin-1—a key component in the body's immune system—than those of patients not afflicted with the disease. Scientists have since discovered a gene capable of blocking interleukin-1, which genetic engineers have piggybacked onto a baculovirus and then injected directly into diseased joints. Tests in rabbits have shown that with the help of the virus, the gene inserts itself into cells lining the joint, where it begins to produce blocker proteins to curb interleukin-1. To date, though, that treatment, while effective in suppressing arthritis in rabbits, is short-lived. And without further refinement, gene therapy for arthritis will likely have to be limited to forms of the disease that attack only a few joints—the thought of injecting blocker genes into the more than 60 joints typically attacked by rheumatoid arthritis, for example, is at the very least an unpalatable prospect.

An alternative way to go is the development of smart drugs. For one thing, scientists have established that the hormone TNF plays prominently in the development of many forms of arthritis, particularly chronic arthritis. "There are several preliminary studies that suggest that you can in fact dramatically improve patients with rheumatoid arthritis if you reduce the level of the TNF hormone," Keystone says. This fall, a Canada-US team plans to test the potential usefulness of a new drug to block TNF. Ultraviolet light, meanwhile, is part of one of several treatments being tested for their therapeutic potential. In one recent study conducted by an American pharmaceutical company on only a handful of patients, the drug methotrexate (trade name Unasyn) was absorbed by overactive cells of the immune system, making them sensitive to ultraviolet light. Exposure to the light then reduced the cells' negative effects. Last month, Keystone began a larger and more comprehensive six-month study with 50 patients to determine the prospect of further use for Unasyn.

But until some of these new studies result in bona fide breakthroughs, patients like Belyea will have to make do. She has to take 34 pills every week. Her pain and fatigue have forced her to leave her job as a secretary and switchback operator. With one last-
come gone, the family has had to move heavily on Belyea's 30-year-old husband, Jay, a commercial photographer. And, naturally, she worries about the future of her son, Matthew, 6, and her daughter, Rebecca, 4. Fortunately, she does have a few support groups and "self-education in training" to help soothe fears with pain, fatigue and depression. Belyea listens to relaxation tapes in order to lower stress—a factor that some doctors think can aggravate arthritis. "You could say it's been hell," Belyea says. "You could have lucky you were before all this happened." With a bit of good science, her luck could change yet again. □

ROAD SMARTS

Technology will create safer automobiles

A century ago, Henry Ford built his first automobile—a rickety, lightweight affair powered by a two-cylinder motor. Others had preceded him. But Ford's Model T was the most influential of the early automobile pioneers' his vision to mass-produce affordable cars resulted in the Model T in 1908—as Ford himself put it, "a motor car for the great multitude." But as people's love affair with the car unfolded over the next generations, so did the realization that a vehicle had been bound on the world. Development

alcohol offenders are given the opportunity to continue driving—if they submit to the new system. Their vehicle will start only after they blow a sample into the machine. At intervals, the unit will, with a beep, also request further samples. In the event of alcohol being discovered, the unit activates a siren—and records the infraction.

Most accidents, though, still involve sober people making common mistakes—such as following too closely. General Motors, for one, has developed a new generation of cruise control that may help to



Traffic in Toronto: cars that will be able to see, hear and communicate

combat that problem with a radar device that will determine the rate at which one car is approaching another and automatically disengage the cruise control. Also being tested is a system that automatically applies the brakes if the car is front in a collision. Experimental GM vehicles have already been fitted with the new technology, although GM spokeswoman do not yet know when it will be available to consumers. Similarly, GM researchers are currently working on technology that may someday be used to help radar drivers aware when other vehicles pull alongside their cars, particularly those hidden in the blind spot. When the driver prepares to change lanes by using the turn signal, an infrared sensor or radar will detect other vehicles and alert the driver with a warning if one is too close.

Nudging off while driving is another major problem. Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. has developed a Drowsiness Warning System; the driver uses a small video camera mounted in the car's instrument panel to analyse a driver's face. It detects when a driver is getting sleepy by measuring eye blinks, as the blinks become longer and more frequent, the system triggers a warning beep and delivers a refreshing lemon-scented scent to the car. Spokespersons for Nissan say the company has not yet decided when to offer this system in its vehicles.

Other developments are making use of the Global Positioning System, a international network of 24 satellites. Currently, two Oldsmobile models—the 88 and the Ninety Eight—in the United States come equipped with a GPS unit called Globalstar, which can pinpoint and display a car's position on a dash-mounted electronic map and provide information on how to get to a given destination. Eventually, GPS navigation systems will be able to warn of traffic jams and accidents and recommend alternative routes. "If there's congestion in London, Ont., it will give a backup route through Stratford," says Mike Flynn, associate director of the Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation at the University of Michigan. "There will be a running display in your car."

GPS may also offer greater security on the road. In the United States, the 1996 Lincoln Continental, for example, features the Remote Emergency Satellite Collision Unit, which incorporates both GPS and cellular phone technology. In the event of an accident or breakdown, the driver pushes a new truck icon on the car's overhead console or, if medical help is required, an ambulance icon. That

prompts the car's cellular phone to call the nationwide Westinghouse Emergency Response Center in Irving, Tex., and relay such data as the vehicle's location—pinpointed through the car's GPS unit—and license number. That information is, in turn, passed to the local 911 system, which dispatches help to the scene. Of course, whether the use of such technology and other innovations becomes widespread will ultimately depend on the consumer. "The rule of thumb is whether the technology can afford it, and does it make sense," says Max Wickham, manager of corporate and product communications at Nissan Canada Inc. Clearly, though, technology is well on the way to accelerating developments in automobile safety.

SANDRA FERRAN



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PADDLING FEVER

Canada catches the dragon-boat wave

When a friend first talked Calgary charter-dinner accountant Tracy Fier into trying dragon boat racing on the Elbow River, she really didn't know what to expect. "When I arrived at the dock, I thought I would be sitting backwoods in one of those soft machines peddling an ass," says Fier. But, she discovered the row wooden vessel with the paddlers being lured in by two, a steersman in back, and a drummer up front pounding out the rhythm. She also found the perfect summer activity to complement her sky-blue swimsuit. Dragon boating is an excellent cardiovascular workout," says Fier. "It is also very exciting—there is a sense of camaraderie and pride being able to team."

As with other alternative sporting activities, the popularity of dragon-boat racing has spread in Canada over the last decade, initially introduced to the country by the B.C. Chinese community. By Vancouver's Expo

pounding out the rhythm, the sport's rich tradition creates an intriguing aura that not only distinguishes it from rowing and canoeing but also continues to attract new participants. "Dragon boating is both cultural and cultural," says Adrian Lee, chairman of the Dragon Boat Racing Council of Canada. "It's not just about a boat race—it's about all the culture that goes along with it." Another key to the popularity of the sport is its appeal to people of all ages and



Enthusiasm on the race course, stroke, team camaraderie and an excellent cardiovascular workout

athletic abilities. "You can start from any level, even if you have never held a paddle in your hands before," says Lee. "And it's one of the few sports where men and women can compete on equal ground as mixed teams—that's really sold it unique."

The objective of the dragon-boat race is self is extremely simple. A team, usually made up of 20 paddlers complemented by the steersman and drummer, must paddle in perfect unison, using quick strokes to propel a heavy boat along a 640-m course and across the finish line. "It really requires intense mental work," says Fier. "The whole team has to work together as a unit and that takes a lot of effort." Barbara Digges, a Vancouverer who first witnessed the magic of dragon-boat racing at Expo 86, joined a team in 1989. Digges, 43, a program assistant at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., now spends two evenings a week and one Saturday mornings working a paddle. "I also do trailrides and downhill," says

Digges. "But I find dragon boating to be a great upper body sport."

Dragon boat racing also attracts those who love to socialize. "I enjoy the sport part of it, but I also enjoy the networking with other people," says Terefe Rousseau, 35, a manager with the Hong Kong Bank of Canada, which sponsors corporate teams in Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto. Over the last three years, Rousseau, based in Montreal, has travelled to numerous festivals throughout the country with his corporate teammates. Says Rousseau: "It's fun to get to know other cities and other people in different parts of Canada."

The Hong Kong Bank of Canada is hardly alone when it comes to the sponsorship of employee teams. Many corporations, among them Air Canada, the Bank of Montreal and Bell Mobility, are beginning to realize the benefits that can be derived from the teamwork fostered by dragon-boat racing. "You might get a senior law partner

paddling beside the guy that delivers the mail," says Lee. "Normally, they interact in defined roles, but when they get in the boat, they're talking with their paddles."

Barnett Steiner, 42, an account executive with Bell Mobility in Toronto, agrees. "Teamwork and integrity are required to have a successful sports team, and our company is very supportive of that kind of attitude in their employees," says Steiner. "We've also had the chance to taste victory, and we bring that forward to our jobs as well." Corporate benefits aside, the sport clearly appeals to people on a more basic level. "I call it the Lycra factor," says Lee, referring to the form-fitting outfit worn by many dragon-boat team members. "Even if you weren't the high-school sports jock, you can still do the team thing, put on a uniform and get your revenge." In Calgary, Tracy Fier couldn't agree more.

JOHN CRAIG is in Vancouver.

CALENDAR

The Klondike Days, a bathtub race and festivals that celebrate folk music, theatre, comedy and busking

BRITISH COLUMBIA

July 27-28: Fox Saguenay, Aris Club Blevins' musical comedy, *Goodnight, Beethoven!* Vancouver-Alberta playwright Brad Fraser's acclaimed solo satire with a tragic undercurrent about a playwright whose triangle stars Rod Wilson, Jennifer Wiggins and Peter Wilde.

July 28-29: Naamoo Marine Festival and **World Championship Bathing Race** A grand Canadian festival of the performing arts, this year's lineup ranges from Newfoundland's Great Big Sea band to The Arrogant Worms canoeing troupe from Ontario.

ALBERTA

July 28-29: Klondike Days, Edmonton The city brings back the gold-rush era of the 1880s with a King of the Klondike competition, raft race, chuckwagon derby and, this year, the fourth annual Freighters World Games.

July 28-28: Calgary Folk Music Festival About 60 acts from across North America perform, including Kate and Anna McGarrigle and Justin Tade.

SASKATCHEWAN

July 4-10: Saskatchewon Summer Games, Moose Jaw More than 3,000 of the province's athletes compete in 18 events, ranging from cycling to track and field.

MANITOBA

July 19-26: Winnipeg People's Theatre Festival Almost 100 companies from as far afield as Japan will put on 1,200 performances, 500 of them free outdoors.

ONTARIO

July 19-24: Festival of the Sound, Parry Sound The cottage-country town 200 km north of Toronto hosts an eclectic music festival that includes gospel music, choirs and an entire week of Schubert played by Canadian and visiting artists.

QUEBEC

July 12-26: Just for Laughs, Montreal The world's largest comedy festival annually attracts more than 400,000 people to 200 live shows in the Old Port. Among this year's guests are comedian Larry Elliot of Hudson, Que., the 18th annual festival offers an eclectic collection of Canadian acts ranging from the Williams Delta Blues Band of Calgary to Nica Beka, a Quebec-based Brazilian band.

Aug. 2-12: Du Maurier Open, Jerry Park,

Montreal, At Canada's international women's tennis championships—one of the world's most famous players including Montreal-born Mary Pierce will for \$1.3 million in prize money.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Aug. 3-10: Festival by the Sea, Saint John A grand Canadian festival of the performing arts, this year's lineup ranges from Newfoundland's Great Big Sea band to The Arrogant Worms canoeing troupe from Ontario.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

To Oct. 6: Through the Eyes of L.M. Montgomery Coastal-themed Centre of the Arts, Charlottetown. Original manuscripts, seraphographs, letters, poems and photographs by the creator of *Anne of Green Gables*.

NOVA SCOTIA

Aug. 9-10: Halifax International Festival The 10th anniversary show offers 30 acts from 11 countries, including Brother, an Australian four-part harmony singing band, and Big Noise, a comedian (singer) band from New York City who perform in seven-foot-tall costumes.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Aug. 24: Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival, St. John's Seventy acts, including the Tishers An Ewe Traditional Dance, perform at the annual event, which also features craft demonstrations and children's entertainment.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

July 28-29: Folk on the Rocks, Yellowknife Northern musicians, including folk throat singers and Dene drummers, perform with such southerners as Betty Scales-Mac and Edmonton jazz saxophonist P. J. Perry.

YUKON

July 19-21: Dawson City Music Festival Hosted by comedian Larry Elliot of Hudson, Que., the 18th annual festival offers an eclectic collection of Canadian acts ranging from the Williams Delta Blues Band of Calgary to Nica Beka, a Quebec-based Brazilian band.

A sampling of upcoming diversions

MOVIES

Transcending A barely energetic, dully scripted drama about pink-necked South Pacific with outrageous accents, by the makers of the black comedy *Shallow Grave*. **Placencia** Maria Landeria co-stars with a computer-animated doll who turns into a boy played by Home Improvement's Jonathan Taylor Thomas. **Three to Five** Director John Schumacher adapts John Galsworthy's first novel, with Samuel L. Jackson and Sandra Bullock. **Blown Away** A drama based on events that helped launch the gay-rights movement—the 1985 riots led by drag queens in Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

VIDEO

Executive Decision Steven Seagal gets kicked off early in this thriller about a prime hijacking starring Rut Russell and Halle Berry. **Shanghai** Thrill Gang Li pays a gangster's wife in Zhang Yimou film but acquires little answer to *The Godfather*. **News** Anthony Hopkins is brilliant in Oliver Stone's eerily understated melodrama. **12 Monkeys** Terry Gilliam directs some serious post-apocalyptic science fiction with a time-traveling Bruce Willis.

BOOKS

Allen & Ivy Margaret Atwood (McClelland & Stewart). The celebrated novelist makes violence, spirituality and sex in a story of a woman's wanderer, based on a real-life case in 1940s Ontario. **Madness in America: Canadian and Anti-Americanism** G.L. Stashevsky (HarperCollins). A noted historian examines how anti-American sentiment has shaped the Canadian identity. **Unsettled Grounds** Peter Robinson (Viking). Perseus. An award-winning Canadian mystery writer's first novel. **Black and British** Paul Gilroy (Vintage). A detective, through another gritty murder case. **The Chicken Book** (Dutton). The editorial political review reveals the inner workings of the Dove and Glendower campaign for the American presidency.

AUDIO

Feet on Fire Timothy Leary with Simon Steves (EMI). Before he turned in and dropped out completely, the former guru of psychedelics sang and rapped about subjects including his terminal cancer. **From a Jewish Boy** Very Best of Joseph Newman (Polygram). The collection includes the Olympic anthem *Hymne*, *Passer*, *Stranger*, which Newman will sing in Atlanta. **Made Forever & Beyond** Chick Corea (MCA). A live-CD box set spanning three decades of Corea's work as an improviser, composer and bandleader. **For the Love of You** Michael Winger (J&R). More country tunes from a Canadian star.



Microscopic mystery

A tiny parasite takes the blame in a health scare

The microscopic, single-celled parasite linked underlined in the letters of its human hosts for perhaps three decades of years. First identified by microbiologists just three years ago, cyclospora was traced to warm, Latin American countries with poor sanitation. But after a Toronto wedding on May 11, a severe intestinal illness experienced by many of the guests provided evidence that the suspicious parasite had been traced to Canada, possibly on the surface of imported berries. Outbreaks of a similar but severe form of diarrhea have since occurred in several Japanese cities—just as the U.S. strawberry harvest was at its peak. Still, the links between the parasite, the illnesses and the U.S. fruit remain purely circumstantial. And as U.S. berries sit unsold on store shelves, health-care authorities are striving to get visitors in perspective. The 83 cyclospora confirmations in Canada, they note, pale beside the 600,000 estimated cases—including roughly 20,000 confirmed in labs—of diseases caused each year by the three main bacterial contaminants in food.

Microbiologists have found the cyclospora microbe in stool samples of the 1,000 recent confirmed sufferers across North America. But they have no proof of its origin, nor even that it—and not a more familiar contaminant, or even an unaccounted, post-winter loss of fresh fruit—was the cause of their discomfort. Still, fear of berry-borne cyclospora prompted authorities on both sides of the border to issue health warnings. Epidemiologist Jodi Wilson of the federal laboratory centre for disease control in Guelph, Ont., and Ottawa had a clear responsibility to advise consumers of a risk. "There was a significant association of cyclospora infections with strawberries and raspberries," stated the federal scientist. "If there is strong evidence of a health risk, we are compelled to give that information to the public."

Suspicions focused on California's hot Central Valley, and a theory that someone carrying cyclospora had moved with immigration, contaminating the berry crops

As a parasite, the relatively ineffective cyclospora needs a human host to allow it to survive and multiply. But the top three food contaminants in Canada are bacteria that multiply on the surface of food—in bread, in meat and on bone.

DANGERS THAT LURK IN FOOD

As a parasite, the relatively ineffective cyclospora needs a human host to allow it to survive and multiply. But the top three food contaminants in Canada are bacteria that multiply on the surface of food—in bread, in meat and on bone.

NAME	SOURCE	SYMPTOMS	CASES IN 1995*
E. coli (O157:H7 strain)	undercooked hamburger, rarely other meats, fruit, other vegetables	severe, bloody diarrhea that kidney failure is rare	1,152
Salmonella	undercooked poultry, high vegetable/food milk, raw oysters, cantaloupes	diarrhea and fever, death is very rare	8,008
Campylobacter	undercooked poultry	stool diarrhea	12,942

* REPORTED CASES DIED UP TO 100 IN EACH YEAR AND 60 UNDER-50.

Shopping for produce: contaminants

But Canadian and U.S. scientists searched in vain for laboratory evidence of fruit contamination. As of last week, not a trace had been found on any strawberry, raspberry or any other suspected source. Health authorities cautioned that testing methods may not be sensitive enough to find the minute cyclospora.

In both countries, however, scientists began to question whether there was, in fact, any outbreak of disease caused by cyclospora; fruit berries as any source. "Very few studies directly implicate this organism with disease in people," noted John Lynch, chief microbiologist of Ontario's food testing laboratory, also in Guelph. Its detection in stool samples may simply be a product of better testing, not a surge in the bug's presence, he said.

And while the cyclospora scare heightened public concern about food-borne diseases, it also made it clear that public fears are sometimes out of step with reality. Suspicion has perked around hamburgers, for instance, since four young customers of a U.S. burger chain died in 1990 of the effects of E. coli O157:H7, a bacteria that thrives on smoked meat. In fact, fresh salad presents a higher risk of getting a diarrheal, so-called hamburger disease because dried lettuce can become contaminated by cattle manure, the favorite home of that deadly bacterial strain. While ground beef does provide a nutritious medium for the growth of bacteria blended inside the meat from a contaminated surface, the threat is easily eliminated by thorough cooking. Paradoxically, health-conscious vegetarians who eat a lot of raw fruits and vegetables run a greater risk than meat-eaters, whose food is more often cooked.

Lynch voiced frustration at the slow pace of public acceptance of what he sees as a solution to the contamination problem: food irradiation. Norton International Inc. of Kanata, Ont., and its Florida-based processing plant have gained approval to irradiate a variety of foods including grain, potatoes and onions in Canada and poultry, pork and fruits and vegetables in the United States. But the market for produce treated with the name Cobalt 60 irradiation, now used worldwide to sterilize medical equipment, remains tiny, inhibited by public aversion to anything related to radiation. More scares like the one associated with U.S. berries could see those attitudes change.

DAVID THOMAS



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Illicit correspondence

A cache of letters yields a remarkable book

THE CONVICT LOVER

By Marilyn Simonds
(Macfarlane Walter & Ross,
\$50 paper, \$28.95)

It is wonderful the role serendipity can play in a writer's life. In 1987, shortly after her Marilyn Simonds moved into a small bungalow in Kingston, Ont., she decided to close the trap door to the attic. As she did so, her hand brushed against piles of papers. Curious, she peered into the dusty crawl space and found a cache of hundreds of old letters—including a clutch of 70 written on squares of toilet paper. Simonds was enthralled. As she researched the letters—written in 1919 and 1920—over the next several months, she realized that she had uncovered half of a secret correspondence. The writer was a petty thief called Joseph Gleason who was serving a two-year sentence in Kingston Penitentiary, and the recipient was 17-year-old Phyllis Haldy, who lived in the nearby village of

Portsmouth. Eight years and more than a dozen drafts later, Simonds has worked up the details of their story into *The Convict Lover*, a seamless weave of fact and fiction that evokes one of the strangest illicit relationships ever made public in Canada.

Simonds, 47, the author of nine previous books on such down-to-earth topics as soap making and growing salad greens, told *Maclean's* that first fabled night on the letters was "the touching an electric current. I felt I was directly in contact with someone who was long gone." The author says she found the convict's letters deeply affecting, with their depiction of prison life at a time when it was much sterner and more isolating than it is today. "The whole philosophy there was to break down the prisoner's social network," Simonds says, "to forbid him to talk to others and to give him hard work, so that he wouldn't be able to think about anything except his own sin."

Yet if *The Convict Lover* gives anything,



Simonds: describing prison life in 1919

it is that such attempts to isolate prisoners from each other and from outsiders are bound to fail. "People are going to make connections," Simonds says, "for the sake of their survival as human beings." In the book, Joseph infuses his correspondence with the young woman by dropping notes for her beside the road as he travels to and from the quarry where he and his chain gang have been breaking rock. After much hesitation, Phyllis, who lives nearby, responds with her own hidden note. Before long they are sending letters at a great

rate, using more secure hiding places in the attic.

It soon becomes evident that the two want something very different from their relationship. Joseph, who is in his mid-20s, is desperate for tobacco, which is a kind of currency in the prison, used to bribe guards and buy food. He knows many girls his age, and Phyllis doubtfully goes off to visit one tobacco store in nearby Kingston. And while he is rather paternalistic with the young woman (in his letters, which Simonds has printed verbatim, Joseph calls Phyllis "Little Friend" and gives her much lay-brotherly advice), he wants aggressive of her help, and glad to tell stories of prison life. Yet the question of how much he is simply using Phyllis is never entirely resolved—an ambiguity that lends poignancy to their relationship.

As for Phyllis, her letters to the prisoner no longer exist—Joseph would have had to destroy the illicit correspondence as soon as he had read it. And rather than invent letters from Phyllis to tacitly that Simonds feels would have called the veracity of Joseph's into question, the author has imaginatively recreated the schoolgirl's inner life. Simonds has gone out on a limb, perhaps, in suggesting Phyllis's romantic longing for the convict, because there is really no evidence in his letters that she was in love with him. But it serves a plausible suggestion that this spirited, plausible plain (on the evidence of photographs in

the book) young woman who apparently had no lovers of her own should have corresponded, at the very least, at a certain fashion. As well, Simonds missed in the interview that "what Phyllis is thinking, what she's feeling, is based on other writings I found of hers."

Whatever their motives in keeping up the correspondence, the two did share a hunger for communication. And that is what is most moving about *The Convict*

Jail bars cannot kill the hunger to communicate

Lover: the fact that two strangers would risk so much (ie, the isolation cell, she, a fine and perhaps prison) just to pass a few words between each other. Simonds' book demonstrates that the desire to communicate is the most fundamental cultural and spiritual need of all, as irrelevant as any enlightening wilderness.

At the same time, the author of *The Convict Lover* is a good deal wiser than the daily worries of Phyllis and Joseph. Simonds has worked out a subplot around the real life figure of William St. Pierre Hughes, the superintendent of Canada's prisons and a

would-be reformer whose liberal ideas of criminal justice are constantly undermined by politicians, and by the hard-boiled wardens who actually run the penitentiaries. In subsequent years, many of the humane reforms that Hughes favored were enacted, though Simonds—who says she was unswayed to such issues by Joseph's letters—believes that they are now threatened by a right-wing backlash. "There are those," the writer laments, "who wish to make prisoners suffer again, not just by their loss of freedom, but by taking away their so-called amenities. In the States, they've put them back in stripes, they're shaving their heads again, they're putting them in chain gangs—and there are people in Canada who wish to do this, too."

Phyllis Haldy never married. She died in 1986, just a year before Simonds found her cache of letters. The author speculates that the adventure with the convict may have "faded" her in her adolescence. She later took up religion, but in quite a romantic way. I think that relationship with Joseph sort of stopped her in her tracks. As for how her relationship went after he left prison, *The Convict Lover* does not aid, given the lack of evidence, cannot say. In one of his last letters, Joseph promises Phyllis that he will visit her one day. Says Simonds, with a fond chuckle: "Maybe he did."

JOHN BENDISSE

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Books

The secret scribe

A pioneering female journalist led a double life

**A PASSIONATE PEN:
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF
RAITH FENTON**
By Jill Downie
(Shearwater Press, 337 pages, \$29)

By day, she was Alice Freeman, a nondescript, underpaid and uncelebrated Toronto schoolteacher; by night, she was Raith Fenton, the fearless and celebrated newspaper columnist who commanded the women's page of *The Empire* from 1888 to 1896. In search of a story, she traded the gritty backstreets of the city's slums, mingled with the leaders of Canada's greatest society and dined with the political elite. In both her public and private lives, Fenton deliberately kept Alice and Raith apart—an extraordinary but necessary charade. A full century later, Fenton's secret has been exposed by Jill Downie, a Scarborough, Ont.-based historical novelist who makes an impressive debut as a biographer in *A Passionate Pen*. By joining the two personalities, Downie succeeds where Fenton failed: reaching through the mirror, Downie at last sees the person trapped inside.

With a stylistic repertoire that veered wildly between crisp insight and brogue, Fenton achieved neither the consistency nor the lasting recognition of other leading Canadian women journalists at the turn of the century. The dashing Kit Coleman of *The Mail and Empire*, who covered the Spanish-American war, was as colorful. Novelist Sara Jeannette Duncan, writing under the name Gertrude Graham for *The Globe*, was more gifted. The mysterious Annyflynn, the *Saturday Night* society columnist eloquently captured in 1984 by Sandra Grey in her nonfiction work *The Private Capital*, had better Ottawa connections. But Fenton's humble background, as much as she tried to hide it, lent a distinct quality to her talent: an unalike ability to relate to the everyday life of thousands of middle-class women who lacked the power and wealth to speak for themselves. "Her ability for so many years to remove herself from the



Fenton teacher by day and columnist by night, she hid her humble roots and used to work full time from poverty friends

daily grind to full-time journalism had one great advantage," writes Downie. "It kept her in touch with her public and that public responded well to blunter sentimentality."

As portrayed by Downie, Fenton seemed to revel in contradictions. Courting the favor of well-known suffragettes such as Susan B. Anthony, she was still unwilling to alienate an uncertain readership—and, like her male bosses—with proposals for radical change, preferring to coexist with what Downie calls "comfort words." Vigorously pursuing freelance writing jobs in Boston and New York City to supplement her \$212-a-week teaching salary and the pittance (\$2 per piece) from *The Empire*, she moved for her Canadian journalists, she paid slush attention in her column to marriage, "the noblest career for women."

Repeatedly, she lapsed publicly after her lack of beauty and "bodily graces" prevented her from attracting a man. But, in fact, she did meet her mate, physician John Brown, when she was 40, at which point she gave up her career—even though it was the independent *Empire*, not Alice, reporting in the *Yukon*, who initially attracted her future husband of 36 years.

The greatest impact of her varied accounts was in the details—not necessarily facts and figures but vivid descriptions of people and places. Yet there were glaring and ultimately alarming gaps in her reporting that diminished Fenton's importance as a historic source as well as—unfortunately for Downie—her interest as a biographical subject. A string of articles for the *Globe*—quoting her best and best—described her perceptive trick to cover the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896, but neglected to mention the physical hardships that the slight, determined woman endured. Obviously close to Sir John A. Macdonald, one of the leaders of *The Empire*, she coquettishly describes her last visit with the Tory prime minister at his summer home in Riverview, Ont. shortly before his death in June 1891. The normally irrepressible Macdonald, she wrote in crying tribute, was "a little pale and weary with fatigue, and his words dropped into silliness—the absolute silliness of a vast audience." But as with many of her conversations with high-placed figures, Fenton, in the worst of important senses, never divulged the contents.

Much of this reticence, Downie argues halfheartedly, may be explained by the oppressive circumstances that confronted Fenton's skills. Unlike her male peers with established families and full-time newspaper jobs, Fenton's subterfuge was a necessity rather than an alleviation. The third of 12 children born to a Barrie, Ont., shopkeeper and his housekeeping wife, Fenton was (temporarily) stopped by her parents at age 15 to live with a childhood family couple for four years—a trauma and a blessing that Downie surmises steered the child for an early independence. Once her journalistic reputation was established, Fenton feared that disclosure of her humble roots—shown in her Alice after-noon—would reveal her high-society friendships.

But after marrying Brown, she eventually became medical superintendent of Toronto General Hospital, she became one of the society women she had occasionally written about. The humble Alice was no more. As for Fenton, although she still wrote sporadically, she was no longer a social chatter with a secret life.

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BOOKS

Magic in the mundane

THE CURE FOR DEATH BY LIGHTNING

By Gill Anderson-Dargatz
(Knopf Canada, 294 pages, \$28.95)

The striking title of Gill Anderson-Dargatz's first novel is derived from an entry in a disorganized family scrapbook that fascinates 15-year-old Beth Woods, the book's narrator. Filled with newspaper clippings, recipes, pressed flowers and butterfly wings, the book belongs to Beth's mother, Maud. Maud is a mundane woman who uses it partly as a journal and partly as a lifeline to the past. In the scrapbook, the domestic co-exists with the bizarre (dead lightning victims, one entry reads, can be revived by soaking them in cold water and vinegar).

In the same way, the setting of the novel, rural British Columbia during the 1930s, encompasses the mundane and the magical. In *The Cure for Death by Lightning*—which has had major international success for a first novel, with



Anderson-Dargatz: A terrific, poetic coming-of-age story

Spirits and sensuality give a novel its charge

translations in 16 languages, sold in the United States, Britain, Germany and France)—Anderson-Dargatz has created a fictional universe where the spirit world regularly impinges on daily events. "The housewife's children clutch the radio in their crumpled, just as they almost always did those first of the day," Beth notes matter-of-factly as she stands near the barn.

Yet despite its supernatural elements and the *mundane* number of events and incidents among its chapters, the novel is essentially a coming-of-age story. The normal difficulties of adolescence are compounded in Beth's case by her family's poverty and social isolation—mainly caused by her disturbed father, John. Orphaned by the First World War, he has become increasingly erratic and violent. And he has begun to sexually abuse Beth. While Beth's mother retreats into conversations with her own dead mother, Maud, a troubled half-sister teenager, others leave and return.

Beth finds solace partly in Maud's grand mother, Bertha. While Bertha plays the astonishingly stereotypical role of the naïve dispensing wisdom to wrongheaded

whims, her advice is more cautionary than comforting. She warns Beth about Coyote, the animal agent who poses men, the "sassy little clown" whose mischief can sometimes turn murderous. Bertha believes that Coyote, shape-shifted into a man's body, is responsible for a number of children missing from the province, and for the recent drowning death of Beth's classmate, Sarah Kemp.

Anderson-Dargatz is clearly not writing for social realism, opting instead for a more poetic exploration of her themes. The 30-year-old author, who lives with her dairy farmer husband, Floyd, on Vancouver Island, treats the myth about Coyote as an

integral part of the narrative, not as fanciful folklore. The misadventures of Coyote influence every chapter with a sense of awe.

Alongside the spirit world, Anderson-Dargatz beautifully evokes the smell and sights of a landscape given to sudden wonders. In one autumn passage, the sky rains down luminous blue petals as a windstorm ignites the dry crop. Her prose luxuriates in the weekday details of Beth's world: baking honey cake, milking cows and drying newborn lambs become resonant magic.

The Cure for Death by Lightning, which grew from an award-winning short story, gains remarkable pace and authority. It is, at times, the plot stretches credibility—no one in Turtle Creek affected?—the author's portrayal of Beth's inner journey is convincing and affecting. Like lightning in the distance, Anderson-Dargatz's novel signals a strong force on the literary horizon.

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Ryan (left). Denzel was a female pilot an angel of vengeance or a winged coward?

Militantly maudlin

A Gulf War drama pulls its political punches

COURAGE UNDER FIRE
Directed by Edward Zwick

Hollywood loves a war—and there are movies to go with just about every one. From the Second World War (*The Longest Days*, *Patton*) to Vietnam (*The Green Berets*, *Apocalypse Now*), and even to the dirty little invasion of Grenada (*Morningbreak Ridge*), the American military machine has inspired many a Hollywood epic—pageants (propaganda) along with masterpieces of irony (Ozzy, Hollywood has shed one from the 1991 Gulf War—until now *Courage Under Fire* is a gritty, well-acted number, inspired by real cases of so-called friendly fire in Kuwait, in which U.S. troops killed their own men while knocking the daylight out of Saddam Hussein's troops. Despite a provocative premise, however, *Courage Under Fire* pulls its political punches.

The plot is elegantly complex: During a night battle in Kuwait, Lt.-Col. Madeline Serling (Denzel Washington), an antiwar-discouraged tank commander, mistakenly gives the order to fire upon one of his own tanks. Cut to six months later, after the war, and army brass have hidden Serling away in a desk job in Washington. His new duties involve reviewing candidates for the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for bravery. Serling's assignment, Capt. Karen Muldren (Michelle Yeoh), an army pilot who killed in Kuwait while allegedly sav-

ing the lives of a downed helicopter crew. But as Serling interviews Muldren's men, conflicting accounts emerge, recalled through a series of flashbacks. Her medic (Matt Damon) says Muldren was an angel of courage, but to the trigger-happy Sgt. Montross (Liam Neeson) Muldren, she was a cowardly coward. Serling, still weakened by grief, over his Gulf War blow, struggles to discover the truth not only about Muldren, but also about himself.

The dual plots result in a tightly structured, but often tedious, film. Washington manages a fine performance, but Ryan, in a departure from the romantic comedies (*When Harry Met Sally*, *Steph in Seattle*) for which he has become known, has little more than a bit part.

The main problem with the movie, however, is one that recalls the Gulf War itself—Hawass's putative "transfer of all battles" that turned out to be a cakewalk for allied forces. Once all the facts are revealed, the movie's central conflicts turn out to be less compelling than they were cracked up to be. Having little real drama to work with, director Edward Zwick (*Glory*, *Legends of the Fall*) wraps the denouement in a saccharine coating of tears and gushy ruminations on bravery and integrity. And *Courage Under Fire* honestly remains on sale ground—in the desaturated zone of self-indulgence.

JOE CHIRKLEY

The heart of Texas

LONE STAR
Directed by John Sayles

In the rare instances that American film-makers take a wide-angle view of their country's ethnic landscape, they tend to present either as ethnic battle zone or a place of tribal schisms. Not John Sayles. In movies such as *The Brother from Another Planet*, *Passion Fish* and, now, *Lone Star*, the writer-director pursues an interest in how disparate people connect—how, despite a climate of mistrust, they teach each other to live, sometimes intimately. That alone makes *Lone Star* fascinating. But in his latest film, Sayles does much more than explore the complicated relations among Hispanics, whites and blacks in a fictional Texas border town called Frontera. *Lone Star* casts an inimitable narrative spell from its first moments, when a human skeleton is discovered in the desert. The movie festers out the bones of that mystery by exposing the secret lives of several characters, particularly another human being by townfolk but despised by his son.

The son in question is the brooding Sheriff Sam Deeds (John Cooper), son of the late, legendary Sheriff Buddy Deeds (Matthew Mc-

Conaughey). When forensic experts determine that the skeleton belonged to the corrupt Sheriff Wade (Ron Rifkin), Sam becomes convinced that his father was the murderer. As events from four decades earlier are depicted in flashbacks, it becomes clear that Wade's murder was a pivotal point of intersection for Frontera's diverse communities.



Sam's investigation also becomes an exercise in personal archeology. He discovers more than a few skeletons in his father's chest. And he renews his acquaintance with Pilar (Elizabeth Peña), his teenage sweetheart, now a high-school history teacher in Frontera.

As portrayed by the understated Cooper and Peña, Sam and Pilar are richly human and affecting. But Sayles also tosses some well-nail-and-supporting characters into the mix, including Pilar's mother, Mercedes (Vivian Cordi), a successful realtor/owner who came to Texas from Mexico illegally 40 years earlier but now disparages her former countrymen as "wet-backs." Although based on a script from *Lone Star* stars in a vast, desolate social canvas. And it's a damn good story.

PATRICIA HUCKLEY

People

Edited by
MARQUA WYCKINS



The Hootiefish: two albums facing well on the record charts

Hootie-nanny

When Darious Rucker walks down the street, people yell "Hootie" at him as if it were his given name. It is a nickname that the 29-year-old singer for the South Carolina rockers Hootie & the Blowfish finds annoying. But with two albums on the best-selling record charts, it is not likely to change anytime soon. The band's 1994 debut album, *Crooked River Pine*, has sold 13 million copies worldwide. Now, the group—consisting of Mark Dinning, Ray Soudell and Dean Felber as well as Rucker—is looking to promote its subsequent CD, *Runaway Jamboree*. "Who needs a break?" questions Rucker. "It's my job—I love to play."

Triumph from turmoil

Jazz pianist Roscoe Roscoe had a momentous year. In 1994 she found her birth mother, discovered her ancestral roots in India, and lost her adoptive mother. Out of that turmoil came triumph. Her fourth album, *Ascension*, the No. 1 jazz record in U.S. radio play in November, 24, who was born in Nigeria and raised in Vancouver, sought her birth mother through an adop-



McLachlan: There is something very deep that alters you

Nature's divine inspiration

Marshall McLachlan is well-known for his theories on mass communication. But his daughter, Teri McLachlan, 50, says there is another side to him. He was a devout convert to Roman Catholicism. "He was a visionary, but he was no mystic," says McLachlan, adding that because of his father's overwhelming orthodoxy, she did not feel free to begin her own spiritual quest until his death in 1990. But since then, McLachlan—a New York City-based

freelancer and author, whose 1971 book about native Americans, *Toward the Earth*, is still available after 23 printings—has studied many of the world's major religions. Now in *Cathedral of the Sacred*, she quotes passages from many of those faiths about the spiritual significance of such natural sites as caves, waterfalls and rain forests. "There is something very deep that alters you," McLachlan says about those places. "They can provide great moments of clarity."

Some not-so-lucky breaks

If it is always darkest before dawn, equestrian Eric Lamaze must be wondering how long he has to wait for the sun to come up. In six years, Lamaze, 28, of Schomburg, Ore., settled positive for cocaine. That as a potential result in a four-year ban from competition—including the Olympics opening in Atlanta this month. Lamaze has appealed the findings, but a speedy resolution became most last week when a horse he was riding fell on him, breaking his right leg. "I can't even say I'm sorry, I'm not," said Lamaze, whose leg will be in a cast for six weeks.

Elsewhere in sports, another athlete waited for some light to be shed on his future. For the first time in his 18-year career, Wayne Gretzky, 35, the highest-scoring player in NHL history, became a free agent when he contracted with the St. Louis Blues on opening. As sports analysts speculated he could lace up for the New York Rangers, the Phoenix Coyotes or the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, the Great One kept his thoughts to himself.

Gretzky: all dressed up and nowhere to play hockey



tion registry that soon after they part, her adoptive mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died within a month. *Ascension* includes *The Ashes of the Ashes*, a tribute to the woman who raised her. "I think of music as a medicine," says Roscoe. "It's natural for a creative person, no matter what their inclinations, to draw upon life experiences to lead through the creative process."

Roscoe: "It's natural to draw upon life experiences"

Allan Fotheringham

If the Irish and Italians swapped countries

The Irish "trashies" go back a long way. Before the end of the last century, Otto von Bismarck, first chancellor of the new German Empire, offered some advice to Queen Victoria. Bismarck was a wise statesman (he paved the way for universal medicine before 1890—hello there, Washington).

He pointed out to Victoria that the populations of Ireland and Holland were roughly the same. Why not, he suggested, swap the two. Within 10 years, he reasoned, the industrious and hardworking Dutch would make Ireland into a thriving land. And the Irish, being used to Holland, within 10 years would have neglected maintenance of the dikes and they would all drown.

This may be the only known evidence of Prussian wit, but we have a better idea. Your dutiful scribbler, on yet another hardship assignment, has just some weeks roaming Ireland and Italy. The suggestion is that the populations of the two countries be swapped.

There are many sound reasons for this. Neither population would have reason to regret the move, since both lands are so beautiful as to defy description. If any transfer has seen anything more sublime than the landscape of Connemara off Galway Bay, it is the lush green hills of Tuscany. If anyone can find anything to compare with the charming low-landness of the Irish, it is the serene openness of the Italian. Both know what life is for: it is to enjoy. We're only here for a short time, so let us savor the flowers.

There are other practical matters that would warrant a swap. Any motorist from either who has attempted to navigate Irish country roads—wrong side of the road, wrong hand on the gearshift—knows the perils. The Irish, for reasons of their own, feel that every growing creature must be cherished, not to be defiled, never to be cropped or injured. The result is that the bush, the hedge, the tree (be it mature) rules all—the poor motorist, an intruder of only recent years, comes he down the track. By the next century, it is predicted with assurance, the deadly creeping hedges that line every road on the Emerald Isle will meet in the middle and motorists will be impossible.

This is where Italy comes in. In the lush green hills of Tuscany where your agent is confined, somewhere between Pisa and Flo-

rence, the landscape is as fertile as in Ireland. From the curves clear beside the pool in the hidden farm village where your agent is imprisoned, one can see: within touch apricot trees, cherry trees, evergreens, roses, hydrangeas, a small palm tree. A moister green and birds chirp. Also—a pop—is weed-whacker. In a paradise without compare, somewhere in the white and ungodly screams of a weed-whacker, Tuscany, whose art predates the Greeks, has discovered what it thinks is progress. Because a leaf blower has been invented, does it have to be used? And so, the scribbler lounges beside the pool, resting Plato as usual, listening as the hills are alive with the sound of weed-whackers, happy Tuscan dogs doing delightful damage to the foliage, whacking away at nature.

How much being one reasons, thus to remove them all—these weekend cowboys—to Ireland, putting them all to useful work attacking those killer hedges that impair the life of every tourist so foolish as to rent a car that is too wide to negotiate a road that is too narrow to accommodate it. There are other matters that a swap would help. Food. The two joyous races could lose. First of all, we give you The Stack, a pub on the southern fringe of Athlone—"The Heart of Ireland," and-way between Dublin and Galway. The joint is packed for lunch and the traveler opts for a light taste of cod, along with a pint of the finest beer in the universe, Smithwick's. It swiftly becomes clear why the joint is packed. The cod is accompanied by: butter sauce, carrots, tomatoes, omelets, lettuce, coleslaw, corn, mushrooms, cabbage and chips. Let's chips. Just nice buds. Everyone goes away happy, grinning.

Near let us connect this with the Restaurant Iluca d'Alfonso, just off Piazza del Duomo in Lucerne, a wonderful walled city that is badly ignored because of magical Florence to the east and dull Pisa just south of it—a town that exists only because of one attraction that, one hopes, will collapse soon. (Lucerne is where, ahem, as St. BC. Carver, Poeper and Cramm decided to rule Rome as a university. It was the first town in Tuscany to resist Christianity and, in our times, the only part in the vicinity that resisted being Conquered. Amen.)

There, leaping off the plate, are two exquisite slices of veal luncheon, a few white beans on the side with olive oil, the local wine and a soufflé to send you striding into the lush hills where the weed whackers roam. The Irish epicurean is equalled by the Tuscan luncheon. Some food (not this one) sends a pack of travelers cheques under the table and the owners, with great periodic back down the owners in far-off Canada and get them returned.

I'm serious about this. The Italian, as we know, change three governments every 15 minutes and we think the calming influence of the constant Irish rain would help to cool their crankiness.

On the other hand, the switch of the entire Irish population to Italy would teach them that you don't have to have 10 different gradients in a lunch to send you home happy. I think it would be a useful idea.

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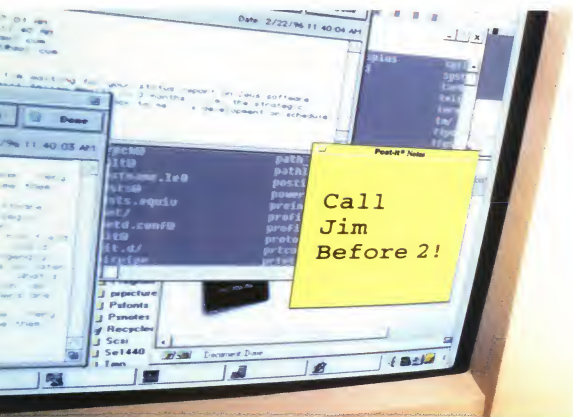


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